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HISTORY
OF
Montcalm County
MICHIGAN

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

BY
JOHN W. DASEF

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

VOLUME II

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Eugene Rutan

BIOGRAPHICAL

EUGENE RUTAN.

Eugene Rutan has been one of the progressive leaders of commercial and church life, in Greenville, Michigan, for many years, and has stood for the best influence on all questions pertaining to the public welfare. His birth occurred on July 2, 1844, in Dover, New Jersey, and at the age of seven years he came to Michigan with his parents.

The Rutans were of Huguenot descent, who located in Greenville and it was in this town that Eugene was educated. At the age of twenty years he became a student of Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio, and there completed his class-room studies. In 1869 he began his business career by succeeding his father in general merchandise, but later entered the hardware business, of which he made a great success. He remained in this business for twenty-four years and then engaged in the real-estate business for several years, subsequently becoming one of the largest stockholders, and later, director and vice-president of the First National Bank of Greenville, Michigan. The bank finally dissolved and he then became one of the organizers of the Greenville State Bank, serving as its vice-president. He is much interested in city real estate and owns several business blocks.

Eugene Rutan was first married to Marcia A. Fenton, a native of Massachusetts, but an old resident of and a teacher in the public schools at Greenville, Michigan, and one child blessed their union, namely, Leo H., who resides at home. The wife and mother died in February, 1913, and on October 5, 1914, Eugene Rutan was united in marriage to his second wife, Francene M. Nelson. She was born in New York state, but has been a resident of Greenville, Michigan, for many years, serving as a teacher in the public schools.

The family are members of the Congregational church, of which Eugene Rutan is steward and trustee. He is a liberal supporter of the church and civic needs and is also prominent in club life, being a member

of the Lincoln Club and of the Pioneer Society. Politically, he is a Republican and has served on the common council, as well as having been a member of the school board. He was the owner of the E. Rutan & Company flour-mills of Belding, Michigan, which burned on February 20, 1898, with a big loss to Mr. Rutan. He was one of the original incorporators and organizers of the Moore Plow and Implement Company of Greenville, Michigan and at present one of the directors and its treasurer. This is one of the largest and most important manufacturing concerns of Montcalm county, Michigan.

JUDGE CHRISTOPHER C. MESSENGER.

When the people of Stanton, county seat of Montcalm county, in the spring of 1915 elected Judge Messenger to serve as the chief executive of that sprightly city, they honored themselves, for their discriminating choice placed in the mayoral chair a man not only eminently qualified for the performance of the exacting duties of that important position, but one who has brought to the office a natural dignity most becoming to that high station and which has been properly maintained in the various and intimate relations with the public which this station entails.

Christopher C. Messenger was born at Hickory Corners, Barry county, this state, on November 20, 1855, son of Warner and Sarah (Crabb) Messenger, both natives of England, the former of whom was born in the city of London and the latter in the city of Liverpool.

Warner Messenger was one of thirteen children born to his parents, of whom mention is here made of Richard, John, who came to America; William, Anna, Mary, Robert and Warren. The parents of these children died when the son, Warner, was a child and but vague impressions of them were retained by him. He grew to manhood in London and after coming to America, was married in the state of New York to Sarah Crabb, daughter of Christopher C. Crabb, a tailor, and when twenty-five years of age, in 1851, with his wife came to Michigan, and bought a farm of eighty acres in Barry county. To this original tract, Mr. Messenger presently added two adjoining "forties," thus making a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and brought to an excellent state of cultivation and there reared his family. His wife died in 1891, at the age of sixty-three years, but he continued to live on the home place until a couple

of years before his death, when he went to live with his daughter at Hickory Corners, where his death occurred on March 17, 1913, he being then aged eighty-five years. Both Warner Messenger and his wife were members of the Baptist church and were regarded as among the leaders in all good works in the neighborhood in which they lived. To them were born two children, Christopher C., the subject of this sketch, and Mary A., wife of William H. Marshall, of Hickory Corners, this state, where she has lived all her life.

Reared on the parental farm in Barry county, Christopher C. Messenger received his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, which he supplemented by a course in the Adventist College at Battle Creek, this state. While attending college, Mr. Messenger began to learn the jeweler's trade, which he followed for nearly twenty years. In 1886 he came to Montcalm county and located at Howard City, where he opened a jewelry store and was in business there until his appointment to the office of judge of the probate court for Montcalm county in June, 1899, and on June 26, 1899, he moved to Stanton, the county seat, to enter upon the duties of that office. For nine years and six months Judge Messenger presided over the probate court of this county and at the close of that term of service, bought a hardware stock in the village of Butternut, this county, where he remained for two years and six months, at the end of which time he returned to Stanton, which since has been his home.

For many years Judge Messenger has been one of the leading and most influential factors in the Republican party organization in Montcalm county. For six years he was secretary of the Republican central committee, in which capacity he performed valuable service for his party. For two years he was treasurer of Reynolds township and after that service ceased, he became supervisor and served in that capacity for a little more than seven years. He then entered upon his long term of service as judge of the probate court and for the past three or more years has been serving the public in the capacity of commissioner of the poor. In the spring of 1915 Judge Messenger was elected mayor of Stanton and is now serving in that office in a manner acceptable to the entire community, even many of his political opponents conceding the wisdom of the people's choice of chief executive.

On November 26, 1884, Christopher C. Messenger was united in marriage to Theodocia E. Fisk, who was born in Johnson township, Barry county, on November 28, 1860, daughter of Sidney S. and Elsie (Dunn)

Fisk, the former of whom is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Fisk were the parents of eight children who lived to maturity, Lilly, Theodocia, Hermie, Lena, Nellie, Eva, William and Catherine. To Judge and Mrs. Messenger one child has been born, a son, Lee F. Messenger, a traveling salesman, of Traverse City, this state, who married Agnes Brown and has one child, a daughter, Catherine. Mrs. Messenger is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both she and the judge long have been devoted to all measures having to do with the betterment of social conditions throughout the county and are held in the very highest regard by all. Judge Messenger is a member of the Masonic lodge at Stanton and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order. He is public spirited, energetic and enterprising and for years has been regarded as one of Montcalm's most substantial and influential citizens, a man who possesses the confidence and respect of all.

HORACE L. BOWER, M. D.

Dr. Horace L. Bower, the oldest physician in point of continuous practice in Montcalm county, and who has been located at Greenville since he received his diploma in 1864, during which time he has gained a wide reputation throughout this section of the state as a physician and surgeon of high ability, but who is now living practically retired from the more arduous details of his profession, his onetime extensive practice being, to a large extent, taken over by his son, Dr. A. J. Bower, is a native of New York, having been born at Lansing, in Tompkins county, that state, August 31, 1839.

Horace L. Bower received his early education in Courtland Academy at Homer, New York, and in a similar institution at Ithaca, same state, and in 1861 moved to Michigan, locating at Clarkston, in Oakland county, beginning in that same year the study of medicine in the office of Dr. J. B. Drummond, at Greenville, this county. The next year he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan and studied there for two years, 1862-63, and in 1864 entered Albany Medical College, from which he was graduated that same year. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Bower returned to Greenville and began the practice of his profession there and has since then, with the exception of a few years, been continuously engaged in practice at that point, during which time his name and fame

as a physician have extended beyond the confines of this and adjacent counties.

From the time of its organization, Doctor H. L. Bower served the Montcalm County Medical Society in the capacity of secretary and was continuously re-elected to that position until at the meeting of the society in 1915 he was elected president of the same. For thirty years he has been county physician and for many years has been health officer of Greenville. He is an honored member of the Michigan State Medical Society and for some time served as treasurer of the Union Medical Society of Northern Michigan. For two years Doctor Bower was grand councilor of the Royal Templars of Temperance, an organization with insurance benefits, and also served for some time as state medical examiner for that organization. Doctor Bower also is a member of the Masonic lodge at Greenville and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. Although still continuing active in his practice, the people of this section being reluctant to permit him to retire, his services in obstetric cases being particularly in demand on account of his years of notable success along those lines. Doctor Bower has pretty largely turned his practice over to his son, the junior member of the firm of physicians, Dr. Albert J. Bower, who has perhaps, the most extensive practice of any physician in Greenville, and his father is seeking, as the years pass, to spend his later years in the quiet retirement of his pleasant home.

In 1865, the year of his permanent settlement in Greenville, Dr. Horace L. Bower was united in marriage to Ettie A. Clark, of Detroit, and to this union two children have been born, Albert J. and George C. Albert J. Bower, who was born in January, 1880, received his elementary education in the schools of Greenville and was graduated from the high school in that city in 1898. He then entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and was graduated from the literary and medical departments of that institution in 1903. Upon receiving his diploma, Dr. A. J. Bower was given an internship in the Lakeside hospital at Cleveland, Ohio, where he served from 1903 to 1905, during that time receiving a vast amount of valuable practical experience in the practice of his profession. Thus admirably equipped, the younger Doctor Bower returned to Greenville and in 1905 became associated with his father in the practice of his profession in his home town and has attained a wide general practice throughout this section. George C. Bower, who was born on December 11, 1872, was graduated from the Greenville high school in 1890 and is now engaged in the produce business at Greenville and Belding.

Doctor and Mrs. Bower are members of the Baptist church, in the various beneficences of which they for years have taken an active interest, and their sons are members of the same church, while the three men are members of the Masonic lodge at Greenville, in the affairs of which they take a warm interest. No family hereabout is held in higher regard than is the Bower family and all enjoy the warm esteem of the entire community.

HARRY E. WAGAR.

Harry E. Wagar, the well-known and popular cashier of the Peoples State Bank of Edmore, this county, is a native of that village, having been born there on June 1, 1881, only son of the late Hon. Edgar S. and Mary (Pfeifler) Wagar, for many years prominent and influential residents of that village, the former of whom died on July 17, 1914, and the latter is still living there, enjoying many evidences of the high esteem in which she is held by the entire community. Further details of the history of this interesting family are set out in a memorial sketch relating to the life of the late Hon. Edgar S. Wagar, presented elsewhere in this volume, to which the attention of the reader is directed in this connection.

Harry E. Wagar grew up at Edmore, receiving his elementary education in the excellent schools of that village, and upon completing the course in the high school entered Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, and after a course there entered the Michigan Agricultural College, in which institution he gained credits sufficient for his graduation, but was prevented from finishing with his class by reason of illness during the last year of his school work. In 1897 he entered his father's bank at Edmore and learned the detail work of that old institution literally "from the ground up." In 1902 he was made cashier, a position which he is still filling, with satisfaction both to the stockholders and to the customers, he long having been recognized as one of the ablest young bankers in this section of the state, enjoying the full confidence and respect of business and financial circles generally hereabout. In addition to his banking connection, Mr. Wagar has farming interests of two hundred acres in this county and a valuable farm in St. Joseph county, besides which he is financially interested in several other enterprises in the state, and is looked upon as one of Montcalm's most substantial business men.

On November 16, 1902, Harry E. Wagar was united in marriage to

Grace Pittenger, who was born at Breckenridge, this state, daughter of James E. and Eva (Kine) Pittenger, and to this union one son, Guy E., was born on September 10, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Wagar take a proper part in the social and cultural activities of their home community and are held in high esteem by their many friends thereabout.

Mr. Wagar is a Republican and for years has been a member of the town council, now serving his third term as president of the village. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Edmore and of the Grand Rapids Consistory, Scottish Rite Masons, and of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids; a member of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Ionia and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Edmore, in the affairs of which orders he takes a warm interest.

FRED J. COLE.

Fred J. Cole, well-known attorney-at-law, of Greenville, also justice of the peace in and for Eureka township, this county, and circuit court commissioner, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the city of Jackson, this state, November 15, 1875, son of A. J. and Miranda E. (Palmer) Cole, who for years have been well-known residents of Greenville.

A. J. Cole was born in Jackson county, this state, son of Horace Cole and wife, the former of whom had come to Michigan from Onondaga county, New York, at an early day in the settlement of Jackson neighborhood and had there established his home, becoming in his day a fairly prominent resident of that community, and there grew to manhood, learning the carpenter trade which he has followed all the active years of his life. When the Civil War broke out A. J. Cole enlisted in Company K, Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served in that regiment until he was wounded in battle in 1862, after which he was honorably discharged for disability. Returning home, he presently recovered from the effect of his wound and re-enlisted, in 1863, in the Tenth Michigan Cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war, being attached to the Army of the West.

Some little time after A. J. Cole's return from the army, and while engaged in the carpenter business at Jackson, he met Miranda E. Palmer, of Onondaga county, New York, who was visiting kinsfolk in Jackson,

and their marriage shortly followed. To this union two children were born, both sons, Fred J., the subject of this sketch, and Leon, who died in infancy. When the first-born of these sons was about one year old, in 1876, his parents moved from Jackson to Greenville and there have made their home since, long having been regarded as among the most highly-respected residents of that place. Mr. Cole followed his trade as a carpenter and builder at Greenville for about thirty-five years and has but lately retired from the active pursuits of life.

Fred J. Cole grew up at Greenville, receiving his elementary education in the schools of the village, supplementing the same by a course in the Detroit College of Law, from which he was graduated with his degree in 1902. Upon receiving his diploma, Mr. Cole returned to Greenville, was admitted to the bar and opened an office for the practice of his profession in his home town and has been thus engaged ever since, having gained the high regard of his associates at the bar in this and adjoining counties. Mr. Cole is a Republican and from the days of his youth has taken an active interest in local political affairs. Twice was he appointed circuit court commissioner and twice has he been elected to that office, now serving his fourth term in that capacity. He was elected justice of the peace and is still serving in that capacity, giving to all his public service his thoughtful and intelligent attention.

On June 6, 1906, Fred J. Cole was united in marriage to Christine Avery and both take a warm interest in the social activities of their home town, being held in high esteem by all thereabout. Mr. Cole is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, at Greenville, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

JAY H. GIBBS.

Jay H. Gibbs, well-known manager of the extensive interests of the firm of J. H. Gibbs & Son at Edmore, this county, and one of the most active and enterprising young business men of Montcalm county, is a native of this county, having been born in Home township on December 20, 1886, only son and second child of the late Lucius H. and Julia R. (Hanscom) Gibbs, the former of whom for many years was one of the leading men of the Edmore community, a review of whose career in this county, is set out in a memorial sketch relating to himself, presented elsewhere in this volume,

where also is presented a history of the family of his father, Josiah H. Gibbs, who is still living at Edmore, where for many years before his retirement he took a prominent part in affairs and where he established the large interests now managed, in the third generation of the same family, by his grandson, the subject of this sketch.

J. H. Gibbs received his early education in the schools of Edmore and was graduated from the high school there in 1903, being the only member of the class of that year. He then took a special course in the Michigan Agricultural College, after which he entered Bliss Electrical School at Washington, D. C., from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1908, receiving the degree of electrical engineer. Upon receiving his diploma, Mr. Gibbs engaged his service as an electrical engineer with the Duncan Meter Manufacturing Company of Lafayette, Indiana, with which firm he remained a little more than six months, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the Columbia Meter Company at Indianapolis, Indiana, from which concern he presently transferred his services to the Illinois Steel Company at South Chicago, where for some time he was employed in the meter department, and then went to the employ of the Newaygo Portland Cement Company at Newaygo, this state, where he had charge of the power plant of that concern for some time, after which he was employed by the Beaver Dam Light and Power Company at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, with which concern he remained until 1913, in which year he returned to Edmore and has since then been general manager and superintendent of the J. H. Gibbs & Son flour-mill and elevator and electric-light plant at that place, in which form of service he is doing good work. Mr. Gibbs is an enterprising and progressive young business man and an expert electrician, being a member of the popular Jovian Society, an organization made up of electrical engineers over the country, which is doing great work in promoting the general interests of electrical service in the United States.

On June 25, 1915, Jay H. Gibbs was united in marriage to Marjorie Emerson, who was born in the town of Sterling, in the province of Ontario, Canada, daughter of R. F. and Rose (McGee) Emerson, prominent residents of Montcalm county, further details of the history of which family are set out in a sketch relating to Mr. and Mrs. Emerson, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Robert Lucius, born on March 15, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs take an active part in the various social and cultural activities of Edmore and vicinity and are held in the highest esteem by their many friends thereabout.

Mr. Gibbs is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in the county's political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class of politicians. He is senior warden of the Masonic lodge at Edmore, a member of the consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons at Grand Rapids, and of the temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these several branches of the ancient order of Freemasonry.

SERENUS D. KETCHUM.

Serenus D. Ketchum, cashier of the Edmore State Bank of Edmore, this county, and one of the most progressive and influential business men of that section of the county, is a native of Canada, having been born in Ontario, December 1, 1873, son of Stephen J. and Ellen (Kerwin) Ketchum, the former a native of Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania-Dutch descent, and the latter, of Ireland.

Stephen J. Ketchum was born on December 2, 1833, and the first few years of his life were spent in Canada, his parents having moved to the Dominion when he was nine years of age, later returning to the United States and settling at Dunkirk, on Silver creek, in New York state, where he grew to manhood. He then returned to Canada and was there married, February 10, 1864, to Ellen Kerwin, who was born at Wexford, Ireland, on December 25, 1844, daughter of Nassa and Julia (Cullen) Kerwin, who came to this side of the Atlantic when Ellen was a little girl and settled in Canada, where the father died when the daughter was but nine years of age. Following his marriage, Stephen J. Ketchum continued to make his home in Canada, being engaged in the hotel business at Fornwick for about eight years, at the end of which time he came with his family to Michigan, presently locating at Edmore, in this county, where he made his home for about thirty-seven years, engaged during that time as a shoemaker, a trade in which he was proficient. In November, 1905, he went to Cour d'Alene, Idaho, where he died on December 23, following. During his residence in Canada, Stephen J. Ketchum was an Orangeman, and upon locating in the states became a Democrat, but in the memorable campaign of 1896 voted the Republican ticket and so continued a Republican the rest of his life. The widow is still living and makes her home with her children, she being the mother of four, all of whom are still living, as follow: Lavina,

who married S. E. Young and lives in Idaho; John, of Edmore, this county; Margaret Ann, who married Martin S. Gray and lives at Lansing, this state, and Serenus D., the subject of this sketch.

Serenus D. Ketchum was about four years of age when he came to Michigan with his parents and he grew up at Edmore. He was graduated from the village high school, after which he took a special course for teachers at Ferris Institute at Big Rapids and was engaged as a teacher in the district schools of Montcalm county for about eight years, at the end of which time, in 1897, he entered the service of the Edmore State Bank, with which old financial institution he has been connected ever since. Mr. Ketchum began his banking career literally "at the bottom of the ladder," and displayed such proficiency in the details of bank work, that he was advanced to the position of assistant cashier and in 1910 was made cashier, a position of trust and responsibility he has occupied ever since, discharging the exacting duties of the same with entire satisfaction to all concerned. Mr. Ketchum is a stockholder and a director of the bank and in addition to his work in that connection is also engaged in the general insurance business, in which line he has been successful. He is also interested in the general welfare of his home town and is secretary of the L. Barber Creamery and Produce Company, of Edmore, a prosperous and growing concern.

On July 10, 1904, Serenus D. Ketchum was united in marriage to E. May Dean, who was born at Edmore on July 25, 1885, daughter of H. H. and Mary J. (Fletcher) Dean, and to this union one child, Serena May, was born on March 9, 1906. H. H. Dean was born at Kalamazoo, this state, on November 7, 1860, the only child of his parents. His father died when he was eleven years old, leaving him to aid in the support of his widowed mother. He grew up in the state of Iowa and later came to Michigan, settling at Ionia, later moving to Edmore, where for a few years he worked for the railroad company, after which he started in business for himself, opening a general store, and was thus engaged for a period of twenty-five years, at the end of which time he moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he and his wife now make their home. Mrs. Dean is a native of Canada and was born on April 10, 1861, daughter of Orin Fletcher and wife, both natives of the Dominion, and she grew to womanhood in that country. To H. H. Dean and wife three children have been born, E. May, who married Mr. Ketchum; Herman, deceased, and George, who is with his parents in Vancouver. Before her marriage, Mrs. Ketchum had been engaged as a teacher in the public schools of Montcalm county for three years, having taught in district schools and in the schools at Coral,

and she and Mr. Ketchum take an earnest part in the various social and cultural activities of their home neighborhood, being held in high regard by all thereabout. Mr. Ketchum is an Odd Fellow and a member of the encampment of that order; a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and formerly was a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. He is a contributing member of the Young Men's Christian Association at Detroit, in the activities of which he takes much interest, and is keyman of the association at Edmore, being interested in all movements designed to elevate the standards of living hereabout.

RICHARD H. O'DONALD.

Richard H. O'Donald, the proprietor of a private bank in Howard City, Michigan, was born in Washington county, New York, in September, 1849, the son of John and Eliza (Nelson) O'Donald, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in Hebron, New York. John O'Donald came from Ireland to the United States when four years of age with an uncle and, on reaching maturity, worked for twenty-six years by the month. He was prosperous and successful and invested his savings, being worth, at the time of his death, about one hundred thousand dollars. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they were faithful workers and liberal supporters. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are now living, Richard H., the subject of this sketch; Albert, who is the proprietor of the Howard City elevator, and Mary, J., the wife of T. D. Southworth.

Richard H. O'Donald was reared on his father's farm and was educated in the public schools of Poultney, Vermont, where he was also graduated from a business college. At the age of eighteen, he left home and went to Twinsburg, Ohio, where he worked in a general store for his cousin. He worked here four years, the first year clearing one hundred dollars, the second year two hundred, and each of the last two years, three hundred. In August, 1873, he left Ohio with two hundred dollars and came to Howard City, Michigan, and, for fifteen years, engaged in buying shingles, in which business he was successful, being a member of the lumber firm of Lovely & O'Donald for ten years. In 1897, in partnership with a Mr. Scott, Mr. O'Donald bought out a private bank, which was known under the firm name of O'Donald & Scott, and which was conducted under that name until

1910, when Mr. O'Donald purchased Mr. Scott's interest, and has since conducted the bank alone under the name of the Richard H. O'Donald Bank. Besides his banking interests, Mr. O'Donald is the owner of three thousand acres of fine land in the vicinity of Howard City, including some city property in Howard City.

Mr. O'Donald was married to Hattie Lusk, of Twinsburg, Ohio, and to them were born two daughters, May J., a graduate of an educational institution at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and now the wife of Arie Cook, of Howard City, and Grace M., the wife of Earl Phelps, an attorney of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Hattie O'Donald died and Mr. O'Donald was married subsequently to Stella M. Nichols.

In 1872 Mr. O'Donald became a member of the Masonic fraternity at Twinsburg, and also joined the chapter at that place. Politically, Mr. O'Donald is a Democrat, but, owing to his extensive banking and real-estate interests, he has never had much time to devote to politics. Mr. O'Donald is one of the most popular citizens of Howard City and Montcalm county, where he is held in the highest esteem and where he exerts a wide influence in all public movements.

CASS T. WRIGHT.

Cass T. Wright, prominent miller and foundryman, of Greenville, this county, who from his youth has been identified with the best interests of that thriving city, long having been one of the most energetic business men in that part of the county, is a native of the neighboring state of Wisconsin, having been born at Wrightstown, Brown county, that state, June 30, 1846, son of L. B. and Maryette (Thompson) Wright, who afterward became pioneer residents of Greenville, this county, and prominent factors in the development of the commercial and social life of that community.

L. B. Wright was born in the town of Lafayette, in Onondaga county, New York, son of Hoel S. Wright, who in 1833 bought an extensive tract of land in Brown county, Wisconsin, laid out the town of Wrightstown and was successfully engaged in promoting the sale of town lots and the general interests of the town which bore his name until 1866, when he and his family and the families of his two sons, L. B. and F. N. Wright, came to this state and settled at Greenville, this county, immediately becoming prominent factors in the development of the region thereabout.

When the Wrights came to Montcalm county the pine timber was still

standing in the Greenville region and F. N. and L. B. Wright engaged, as a partnership, in the lumber business. L. B. Wright died in 1868 and his son, Cass T., the subject of this sketch, took a quarter interest in the concern and the business was carried on until 1889, in which year it was closed out, the timber having been reduced to such an extent that it was no longer profitable to work it. F. N. Wright and Cass T. Wright then engaged in the agricultural implement business, which was continued as a partnership concern for a while, after which Cass T. Wright took over the whole business and has since been operating it alone. In the meantime, in 1880, the Wrights had started in the flour-milling business, in which they became quite successful, and later Cass T. Wright bought the old Partlow mill, which he also has carried on, not actively identified with it, but a prime factor in the operation of the same.

In addition to his extensive milling and commercial interests, Mr. Wright is identified with a number of other prominent enterprises in and about Greenville. He helped organize the Greenville State Bank, of which F. N. Wright was president until his death, and was a director in that concern for some time. He has been the treasurer of the Gibson Refrigerator Company since its organization in 1907, being also one of the directors of the company, and is vice-president of the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company, as well as a stockholder and director of the company. In local civic affairs Mr. Wright has been equally active and has done much toward the advancement and promotion of the general interests of Greenville, having served two or three terms as mayor of the city and several terms as alderman, in all his public service ever having had an eye single to the public good, so that he long has been looked upon as one of Greenville's most public-spirited and progressive citizens. As a Republican he ever has given his thoughtful attention to the affairs of that party in this county and for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of the party in this section.

On November 6, 1868, Cass T. Wright was united in marriage to Helen Fuller, daughter of Benjamin H. Fuller, one of Greenville's most prominent citizens in his day, and to this union six children were born, as follow: L. B., who is associated with his father in the latter's business in Greenville; Ethel, wife of William Patterson, who also is connected with the Wright enterprises; Jesse C., who acts as his father's traveling representative, making his headquarters and home in Grand Rapids; Fay, also connected with his father's interests; Hugh, who also has an active part in the development of the Wright enterprises, and Vivien, wife of Stanley

Kemp, who is connected with the business affairs of his father, E. A. Kemp. The mother of these children died in March, 1911. The Wright family long has been actively interested in the social and cultural life of the community and is held in the highest esteem throughout that entire section of the county.

FREDERICK E. RANNEY.

Frederick E. Ranney, mayor of Greenville, and one of the best known business men of Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Massachusetts, on July 2, 1853, a son of Charles and Nancy (Gray) Ranney, who were farmers in New England during their lives, the former dying in 1867, and the latter in 1869.

Mr. Ranney received his early education in the public schools of the New England states, after which he attended classes at an academy of his locality for some time, and then engaged in farming until he was nineteen years of age. About the year 1872, he came to Michigan, and located at Belding, Ionia county, where he worked as a carpenter, for about four years and then he engaged in the livery business for a number of years, at Belding. Some time later, Frederick E. Ranney entered the manufacturing business at Belding, Ionia county, and was there vice-president and, afterwards, president of the Belding Manufacturing Company, until the year 1892, when Mr. Ranney moved to Greenville, Montcalm county, where he established the Ranney Refrigerator Company, a stock company which he organized and of which he became the first president, a concern which under the management of Mr. Ranney has become one of the largest refrigerator manufactories of the United States. In October, 1915, he bought the Phelps hotel, of Greenville, the only first-class American house of this city.

In 1875, Mr. Ranney was married to Mary Ellis, who was born in Ionia county, Michigan, and to this marriage were born four children: Ellis W., who after graduating from the Michigan Agricultural College, of Lansing, became secretary and treasurer of the Ranney Manufacturing Company; Leroy, who after graduating from the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, became assistant secretary of the same company; Carrie, who graduated from Olivet College, and now is a social welfare worker of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Hattie, who lives at home. In 1900, Mrs.

Ranney died, and in 1901, Mr. Ranney was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Beardslee. To this marriage no children have been born.

Mr. Ranney for many years has taken a good citizen's interest in the political circles of Greenville and of Montcalm county, serving unselfishly as a private citizen, working industriously in the ranks of his party, until the election of 1915, when Mr. Ranney was elected as mayor of Greenville, the duties of which he is now fulfilling in a most efficient manner.

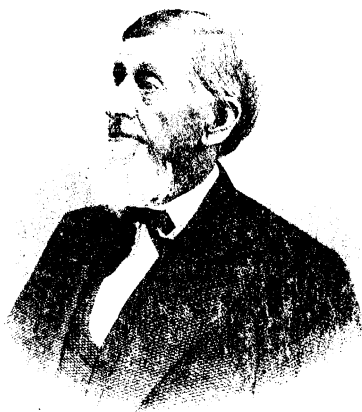
Fraternally, Mr. Ranney is a leading member of the Knights of Pythias, and is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the Shrine and the thirty-second degree.

MANNING RUTAN.

Manning Rutan was born on September 25, 1808, at New Providence, Union county, New Jersey, and died at Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, on December 9, 1886. His parents were Abraham and Hannah (Shipman) Rutan, the former a mechanic and in moderate circumstances. When fourteen years of age his school days ended, and he was apprenticed for a period of some years to a country storekeeper, his remuneration being his board and clothing and fifty dollars in cash.

In 1825 Mr. Rutan formed a partnership with a young friend and they opened a store in Dover, New Jersey. At the end of five years he retired from this partnership, engaging in other business, but later, again, returned to Dover and re-entered the store business there, where he remained until, in 1851, he came to Michigan in the interests of a Wisconsin purchase which he had previously made. Noting the fine character of the country in the vicinity of the present city of Greenville, he effected an exchange of his Wisconsin property for seven hundred acres of land in Montcalm county, a portion of which he had surveyed and platted as a village site, and on October 1, 1851, having bought a stock of goods, he commenced business as a permanent resident, erecting a store and dwelling house for the purpose.

Soon finding that his land business demanded all his time, Mr. Rutan disposed of his interest in the store, and devoted his attention to the sale of building sites, which, owing to the rapid increase in population, were rapidly sold. Later, he repurchased the mercantile business, which he continued successfully for five years, when it was resigned to his only son, Eugene



Wm. H. H. H. H.
Greenfield

Rutan, who, since, following in his father's footsteps, has made it the means of a successful business career. Mr. Rutan was also extensively engaged in the lumber and saw-mill business, and assisted in the organization of the First National Bank of Ionia, of which he was a director for many years. He also took part in the organization of the First National Bank of Greenville, incorporated in 1872, of which for many years he also served as director. In 1876 he was elected president of this bank, and continued in that office until his death.

Mr. Rutan was married in 1831 to Miss Melinda Hurd, of Dover, New Jersey. Their son, Eugene Rutan, was born July 3, 1844, and is one of Greenville's most respected and prominent citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Rutan were of the original eleven who organized the Congregational church society, of Greenville, and were always active workers in the church, it standing on ground donated by Mr. Rutan for the purpose. The ground on which stands the Baptist church and the Union school building was also given by him, and he helped to build many of the best churches and school houses in the county. Olivet College owes much to him, as it was the object of his largest gifts. Its Latin chair was endowed by him, and bears his name. Oberlin College, the Chicago Congregational Seminary, and numerous other educational and religious institutions owe him a debt of gratitude for oft-repeated contributions to their support.

The following extracts are quoted from the *Greenville Independent*, of December 16 1886: "In all his life and multifarious relations with men, Mr. Rutan was a transparent man of principle. He never spoke or acted out of a self-conscious spirit; he never did anything for effect. Mr. Rutan was particularly remarkable for his benevolence, although a strict economist in all his personal affairs. He gave large sums of money and a great amount of property to various benevolent and religious institutions. But few, however, were permitted to know the extent of his benevolence. He gave without show, and distributed his means in a quiet and secret manner. During his residence in Greenville his donations amounted to very much more than his remaining estate, and can be reckoned by the hundreds of thousands of dollars. A man of the strictest integrity and soundest of temperance principles, he has moved and lived among us for thirty-six years, the finest example of strict economy and great benevolence, uprightness of character, and every qualification which goes to make up the pure, noble, exalted Christian gentleman, the writer has ever known among laymen."

FRANK W. BAILEY.

Frank W. Bailey, the efficient treasurer of Montcalm county, and a citizen who has, for many years taken an important place in public and official affairs of the community, as well as being a man who was successful as a farmer and stock raiser, was born in Nelson township, Kent county, Michigan, on January 6, 1858, the son of James J. and Mary A. (Richardson) Bailey, natives of New York state, the former born in Cayuga county, the latter in Allegheny county.

James J. Bailey, came with his parents, and located in Nelson township, Kent county, Michigan, when he was a young man, and after his marriage to Mary A. Richardson, in Nelson township, who had come to that locality with her parents, the elder Bailey engaged in general farming, a line of work which he followed for the remainder of his days.

Frank W. Bailey received his education in the common schools of Nelson township, after which he lived on the home farm until he was seventeen years of age and then, his father having died some seven years earlier, Frank W. Bailey disposed of his interest in the home place and secured land in Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, a place which was the homestead of his grandmother, Elizabeth Richardson, who had secured the land on February 8, 1864, the deed to the land having been signed by General Grant. To the eighty acres which he obtained, Frank W. Bailey added fifty-eight acres by purchase and lived there alone as a farmer, cultivating his soil in the summer and devoting a part of his time, in the winter, to work in the lumber camps of the region. As a farmer, Mr. Bailey was successful, his crops being of an excellent quality, while his activity in raising Shorthorn dairy cattle and Oxford-down sheep, resulted in his securing awards and prizes at county fairs, in 1914, at Greenville, Mr. Bailey having received the first award as the owner of the cow producing the most butter-fat.

In May, 1879, Frank W. Bailey was married to Augusta A. Cook, who was born in Ontario, Canada, the daughter of William G. and Arvilla (Bowman) Cook, both of whom were born in Ontario, Canada, and who came to Michigan, and located in Nelson township, where William G. Cook was a successful farmer. To the marriage of Frank W. and Augusta A. Bailey have been born two children: Guy, a farmer of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, who married Sarah Reynolds and to whom has been born one child, Anna M., who lives at home.

Few men have taken a more important place in the public life of Montcalm county, than Frank W. Bailey. While yet a youth, he was a member of the local school board, and only a short time later he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of supervisors, at the next election being elected to continue in that office. For a few years after this time, Mr. Bailey retired from public life as a result of the activities of the Patrons of Husbandry, but after this wave had passed, he was again elected as a supervisor, serving some years, until his entire record as a supervisor in Montcalm extends over twelve years of efficient and unselfish service to his constituents.

In 1914, Frank W. Bailey was elected to the office of treasurer of Montcalm county, taking office in January, 1915, since which time he has been capably conducting the affairs of this important office of trust and honor.

Frank W. Bailey has long been known as a citizen interested in the support of clean politics and in the promoting of the candidacy and election of competent and efficient officers, his service along this line having given him a rank of esteem and honor among the people of Montcalm county.

CLIFTON H. CLEMENT.

One of the pleasantest and most affable men in Montcalm county is Clifton H. Clement, a retired merchant of Sheridan, a veteran of the Civil War, who saw much active service in that great struggle, and for many years one of the most active and influential politicians hereabout.

Clifton H. Clement was born in the town of Jefferson, Seneca county, New York, on January 11, 1844, son of John D. and Margaret L. (Hopkins) Clement, the former of whom was born at Bristol Hill, New York, in 1826, son of John Clement, who was born in the Mohawk valley and was a soldier in the patriot army during the Revolutionary War, while Margaret Hopkins was of the family which was honored by Step. Hopkins, of Rhode Island, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. John D. Clement was reared in New York state, where he married, and in 1850 came with his family to Michigan, locating in St. Joseph county, where he bought a farm. The next year, however, aroused by the tales of the great gold-finds in California he left his family and started for the gold-fields, where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he returned to his family,

much richer in experience, but little, if any, better off in material wealth, having failed to "strike it rich." In 1865 John D. Clement and his wife left St. Joseph county and moved to Mecosta county, where both spent their last days. They were the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter, namely: Allen E., now deceased, who served as a Union soldier during the Civil War, a member of the Eleventh Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry; Charles M., born on July 11, 1838, who also served as a soldier in the Seventeenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in the Union army; Clarissa C., wife of Jay Neadan, of Millbrook, this state, and Clifton H., the subject of this sketch.

Clifton H. Clement's boyhood was spent on the farm and at twelve years of age he started to make his way in the world. His first employment was as a clerk in a general store at Leonidas, Michigan, and while working there the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in Company C. Seventeenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac, later to the Army of the Cumberland, and was in the Mississippi campaign, during which he participated in the siege of Vicksburg and was present when that Southern stronghold fell. At the battle of Antietam, Mr. Clement received a serious wound, but recovered and was with his regiment until the close of the war, receiving then an honorable discharge. Returning to St. Joseph county at the close of the war, Mr. Clement located at Colon, where he learned the shoe-maker's trade and some time later engaged in the boot and shoe business, and presently enlarged his premises into a general store and was there engaged in business until May of 1883, at which time he came to Montcalm county and opened a general store at Sheridan, where he continued in business until 1906, in which year he retired and since that time has been living comfortably at Sheridan, enjoying the rewards of his active life and looking after the various interests which he has retained in and about Sheridan. Mr. Clement is quite well circumstanced and is the owner of three store rooms in Sheridan, besides other valuable property.

In August, 1884, Clifton H. Clement was united in marriage to Lou M. Bachelor and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Jay Dee, born in May, 1886, who was graduated from the Sheridan high school and from Ferris Institute at Big Rapids and is now a successful merchant at Detroit, and Grace A., born in 1888, who is the wife of Lloyd Towner, of Sheridan.

Mr. Clement is a Democrat and for years has taken an active part in the political affairs of Montcalm county, being at present chairman of the

Democratic county central committee. In other days he was a well-known and popular figure in the Democratic councils in this part of the state. Mr. Clement was a member of the Michigan delegation to the Democratic national convention at Baltimore, which nominated Woodrow Wilson for President, and took a prominent part in the activities of that delegation. Despite his long service in behalf of his party, Mr. Clement has never been an office seeker and the only public office he ever held was that of supervisor, during his residence in Mecosta county.

Mr. and Mrs. Clement take an active interest in lodge work, the former being a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges at Sheridan and his wife a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Daughters of Rebekah, the woman's auxiliaries to those popular orders, and both are held in the very highest esteem by their many friends in that section of the county. Mr. Clement has attained to the encampment degree of the Odd Fellows and Mrs. Clement has passed all the chairs in the orders to which she is attached. Mr. Clement also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, being attached to the lodge of that society at Ionia, and is a member of Tom Custer Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which he for years has taken a prominent part. His long connection with the business life of Montcalm county gave him a firm place in the confidence and regard of commercial and financial circles hereabout, and he is looked upon as one of the honorable and substantial citizens of this commonwealth.

ALFRED L. STEARNS.

Alfred L. Stearns, county clerk of Montcalm county, was born in Ferris township, this county, on June 7, 1874, son of Horatio and Etta (Omans) Stearns, natives of New York state, both of whom had lived in Ferris township since their early youth, their respective parents having been early settlers of that township.

Horatio Stearns is the son of Lawson and Emily (Ferris) Stearns, who emigrated from New York state to Geauga county, Ohio, and thence to this county, settling here in what is now known as Ferris township, that township having been named for its first settler, Elijah Ferris, brother of Mrs. Stearns, who had preceded the Stearns family here some years. Lawson Stearns became a well-established farmer of that section of the county

and during the Civil War served the Union as a soldier in a Michigan regiment. He died at his home in Ferris township at the age of sixty-five years. His widow survived him many years, having been eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of seven children, Mary Etta, Emily J., Joseph L., John F., Joel, Horatio and Ella.

Having been but eleven years of age when his parents settled in Montcalm county, Horatio Stearns finished his schooling in Ferris township and upon reaching manhood's estate became the owner of a small farm of forty acres, later renting and tilling an adjoining tract of forty acres in connection with his own farm. He also taught school during the winter for three terms. He married Etta Omans, daughter of James and Anna Omans, early settlers in Ferris township, who also had come to this county from New York state. James Omans and his wife were well-known residents of Ferris township and both lived to a ripe old age. They were the parents of nine children, George, John, Martha, Mary, Frank, William, Irene, Etta and Florence. To Horatio and Etta (Omans) Stearns were born five children, as follow: Alfred L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Owen J., of Eureka, Clinton county, this state; Emily A., who married Oliver Hyde, of Essex township, Clinton county, Michigan; Addie M., who died at the age of sixteen years, and Essie, who is still with her parents. When sixty years of age, Horatio Stearns moved from this county to Sumner, Gratiot county, this state, where he is now serving as postmaster, his daughter, Essie, acting as assistant. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns are members of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

Alfred L. Stearns was reared on the paternal farm in Ferris township, receiving his education in the district schools of that township, and remained at home until his marriage in 1893, after which for several years he rented a farm, prospering in his farming operations until he was able to buy a farm of forty acres, to which is added a tract of twenty acres which his wife inherited. During all this time, Mr. Stearns had been paying considerable attention to the political affairs of the county and extending his acquaintance and was gradually getting in line for political preferment. He had served the people of the township very acceptably as clerk for a period of four years and had been supervisor for six years; therefore, when he received the nomination for the office of county clerk on the Republican ticket in 1914, he was elected by a good majority in the ensuing election in the fall. He then rented his farm to a tenant and moved to Stanton, the county seat, where he is now living, having entered upon the duties of his office in January, 1915.

On September 24, 1893, Alfred L. Stearns was united in marriage to Jennie Jolley, who was born in Ferris township, this county, daughter of Francis L. and Margaret (Pyle) Jolley, natives of Ohio and early settlers in this county. Francis L. Jolley died in 1905, at the age of fifty-nine years. His widow is still living, being now sixty eight years of age. They were the parents of five children, Blanche, Maude, Jennie, Charles and Gladys. Mrs. Stearns' paternal grandmother, Mrs. Charles Jolley, is still living, at the advanced age of ninety years. She and her husband were the parents of four children, of whom Mrs. Stearns' father was the eldest, the others being Lemuel, Douglas and Dora. Mrs. Stearns' maternal grandparents, Curry Pyle and wife, were natives of Ohio and early settlers in this county, who lived here to good old ages. They were the parents of three children, Martha, Margaret and a son who died in early youth.

To Alfred L. and Jennie (Jolley) Stearns five children have been born, Flossie, Elsie, Burdell, Frances and Horatio. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns are popular among their many friends in this county and are held in high regard by all who knew them.

NEWTON W. NEWHOUSE.

The *Stanton Clipper-Herald*, one of the best-known and most widely circulated weekly newspapers in this part of Michigan, has been appearing in its hyphenated form since the spring of 1913, a consolidation of the *Stanton Clipper* and the *Montcalm Herald* having been effected at that time, following the loss the latter paper suffered by fire; Mr. Newhouse, then sole owner of the *Clipper*, buying the good-will of the unfortunate *Herald* and merging its identity with that of his paper, at the same time taking into partnership with him R. A. Carothers, since which time the *Clipper-Herald* has been edited and published by Newhouse & Carothers, a firm well equipped for the exacting duties it is performing on behalf of the people of Montcalm county.

Newton W. Newhouse was born on a farm in Marlborough township, Stark county, Ohio, December 14, 1858, son of William and Nancy (Metz) Newhouse, both natives of Ohio. Both William Newhouse and Nancy Metz had been previously married, to the former's first union there having been born six children, as follow: B. Frank, David B., Simon, Leonard W., Maria, who married John R. Stratton, and Velina, who married Simon C.

Stratton, a brother of John. To Nancy Metz's first marriage four children were born, Benjamin, Frances, Hannah and Mary. To the union of William and Nancy (Metz) Newhouse two children were born, Newton W., the subject of this sketch, and Ida G., who married William A. Corey and lives at St. Petersburg, Florida.

William Newhouse was a son of David Newhouse and wife, natives of an Eastern state and pioneers of Columbiana county, Ohio, who were the parents of the following children: William, David, Jefferson, Anthony, Hannah, Rachel and Rebecca. William, father of the Stanton editor, was a farmer and carpenter and lived most of his life in Stark county, Ohio. He died in 1891, at Ionia, Michigan, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. His wife had preceded him to the grave many years before.

The youth of Newton W. Newhouse was spent on the home farm in Ohio and his early schooling was obtained in the district school in the neighborhood of his home there. At the age of thirteen, in 1871, he came to Michigan, locating at Muir, where for two years he received the benefit of further schooling. At the age of fifteen he began learning the printing trade at Muir and has been engaged in the printing business ever since. In 1875 he came to Montcalm county, locating at Stanton, where he began working in one of the printing offices. He presently became foreman of the *Weekly Clipper*, a position he retained until 1894, in which year he bought the *Clipper* and became the editor and publisher of the same. On February 16, 1913, the office of the *Montcalm Herald* at Stanton was destroyed by fire and Mr. Newhouse then bought the good-will of that paper and merged the name of the same with that of his paper, making it the *Clipper-Herald*, under which title the paper since has been published. On April 1 of the year, Mr. Newhouse formed a partnership with R. A. Carothers, who had had long experience in the office of the *Clipper*, and the paper has since been published by the firm of Newhouse & Carothers. The *Montcalm Herald* was established at Stanton in 1867 and the *Clipper* was established in 1879, both papers long having been regarded as among the most influential newspapers in this section of the state. The paper's political policy is in accordance with the principles of the Republican party and under the present management the paper has been made a force in the community. The firm of Newhouse & Carothers also is extensively engaged in the job-printing business and has a wide patronage in that line, both members of the firm being very popular hereabout.

On, October 11, 1883, Newton W. Newhouse was united in marriage to Minnie I. Zinkhan, who was born in Hillsdale county, this state, daugh-

of Junius M. and Mary (Gage) Zinkhan, both natives of Michigan, who long have been residents of Stanton, this county, where Mr. Zinkhan is engaged in the jewelry business and where he enjoys the distinction of being the oldest business man in the city. To Mr. and Mrs. Newhouse two children have been born, Raymond and Mildred M., the former of whom died at the age of ten months and the latter of whom is living at home with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Newhouse are members of the Congregational church and take an active interest in all good works in the community and are held in the highest esteem throughout the entire county.

Mr. Newhouse has for years, by virtue of his editorial position, given close attention to political affairs and is looked upon as one of the leaders of the Republican party in this section. For two terms he served the people of Stanton as city treasurer and in many ways has manifested his interest in the public welfare. He is a prominent Mason and has attained to the chapter in that ancient order. He also is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Stanton and has attained to the encampment of that order; in both of these orders being held in high regard by his lodge brethren. As a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Newhouse is ever advocating through the columns of his paper such measures as will advance the general welfare of the community in which he has long and so faithfully labored, and the many expressions of confidence heard concerning him and his work are accepted as convincing evidences that his labors on behalf of the public are properly appreciated.

DELOS ALLAN TOWLE.

A resident of this county since his early boyhood, there is no citizen of the county who takes a deeper interest in the development of the community along proper lines than does Delos A. Towle, a prominent real-estate dealer of Stanton and proprietor of the only set of abstract books in Montcalm county. Mr. Towle is an energetic and public-spirited citizen and ever is found at the forefront in movements having as their object the advancement of the interests of this section of the state.

Delos Allan Towle was born in Erie county, New York, on March 28, 1860, son of James and Lydia (Cooper) Towle, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New Brunswick, who settled in New York state for a time after their marriage, afterward coming to Michigan, where they remained for many years. Mrs. Towle died in 1896, at the age of fifty-

eight years. James Towle went to Alabama in 1896, and he is still living there.

James Towle is the son of James and Elizabeth (Monaghan) Towle, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland. The elder James Towle was a lumberman in Vermont, Maine and Canada, who located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1868, and was there for a time engaged in contracting. He later moved to this county, where he died in 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. His widow survived him some years, she having been eighty years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of ten children, James, Kate, Matilda, Mary, John H., William, Henry, Elizabeth and two who died in infancy. James Towle, the eldest of the above children, and the father of the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood in New York state, where he married Lydia Cooper, daughter of Samuel Cooper and Rachel Davis, his wife, the latter of whom was born in Wales. Samuel Cooper was an English sailor, who left the sea and became a lumberman in New Brunswick and later a farmer. He came to Michigan in the seventies and settled at Plainfield, near Grand Rapids. To him and his first wife there were born eight children, Mary Ann, William, Sarah, Hannah, John, Lydia, Samuel and George. Upon the death of the mother of these children, in her forty-fifth year, Samuel Cooper married again and to this second union there were born six children, Margaret, Benjamin, Joseph, Martha, Eliza and one who died in early youth. Samuel Cooper died at the home of his son in Ionia, this state, in his ninety-third year. Before the period of the Civil War, the junior James Towle emigrated from New York to Wisconsin, later settling at Detroit, where for a time Mr. Towle was engaged in contracting. He later returned to New York, going thence to Pennsylvania, where he resided for a time, then went back to New York, but in 1867 returned to Michigan and settled at Grand Rapids, from there to Gowen, thence to Greenville, this county, where for some years he was engaged in lumbering. He then went to Florida, where for two years he was engaged in lumbering and for the past eighteen years has been located at Piedmont, Alabama, where he is prominently connected with the iron industry. To him and his wife were born ten children, namely: Delos A., the subject of this sketch; Mary L., "Matie," deceased, who was the wife of Frank B. Warren; Elizabeth, who died unmarried at Greenville, this county; Lydia Olivia, wife of T. E. Johnson, of Greenville; John W., James H., deceased; George C. C., of Tennessee; Stewart W., of Piedmont, Alabama, and two who died young.

Delos A. Towle was seven years of age when his parents came with

their family to this state in 1867. They lived in Kent county until 1873, in which year they came to Montcalm county, locating at Gowen, and in 1876 moved to Greenville, where Delos A. grew to manhood. After attending the public schools at Greenville, Mr. Towle became bookkeeper in his fathers' lumber office, where he remained until 1883, in which year he was made assistant manager of his fathers' mill at Sheridan, remaining there for one year, at the end of which time, on February 1, 1884, he located in Stanton, going to work in the abstract office of his father-in-law, Capt. T. N. Stevens, then register of deeds. In 1893 Mr. Towle became a partner with Captain Stevens in the abstracting business and since May 1, 1906, has been sole proprietor of the business and is the owner of the only set of abstract books in Montcalm county. In addition to his large business as an abstracter, Mr. Towle also is extensively engaged in the real estate and loan business and is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of this section of the state.

On September 21, 1881, Delos A. Towle was united in marriage to Lu E. Stevens, who was born at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, April 28, 1860, daughter of Capt. Thomas N. and Caroline E. (Silsbee) Stevens, the former of whom was born in Wyoming county, New York, and the latter in Grand Rapids, Wood county, Ohio, who had been residents of this county since 1866, Captain Stevens having been in the abstract business at Greenville and Stanton all those years. He was an honored soldier of the Union army during the Civil War and died at his home in Stanton on January 19, 1908, at the age of seventy-two years. His widow is still living at Stanton, enjoying many evidences of the high regard in which she is held by all in that city. Captain and Mrs. Stevens were the parents of five children, Lu E., Mary F., Caroline N., Bertha and one, the first born, who died in infancy. Captain Stevens was the son of David Stevens and Nancy Nichols his wife.

To Delos A. and Lu E. (Stevens) Towle have been born three children, as follows: Dorothy Lu, who after having been graduated from the Stanton high school attended Oberlin College for two years; Thomas Stevens, who after his graduation from the Stanton high school entered Oberlin College, from which he also was graduated, after which he entered Cornell University, from which he was graduated and is now working as an electrical engineer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Delos Allan, Jr., now in Detroit, after being graduated from Oberlin Academy entered the University of Michigan and was graduated from that excellent institution. Mr. and Mrs. Towle and family are attendants at the Congregational church. The family is prominently identified with the social life of Stanton and takes an

active part in all good works here about, all being held in high esteem throughout the whole county.

Mr. Towle is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in the political affairs of the county. In educational matters he is regarded as a leader and for years has been president of the school board at Stanton, his admirable services in that connection undoubtedly having done much toward elevating the standard of the schools of that city. Mr. Towle is a member of Star Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, at Stanton, having been made a Mason in 1887, and was master of the lodge for four years. He also is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Greenville and when the Knights of Pythias had an organization at Stanton was chancellor commander of the lodge there for two years. In the civic and commercial activities of Montcalm county, Mr. Towle long has been a prominent figure and it is not too much to say that he enjoys the confidence and regard of the entire community.

MORRIS W. STEVENSON.

Former Mayor W. W. Stevenson, of Stanton, this county, who is engaged in the general merchandising business in that city, is looked upon as one of the "live wires" of this section of Michigan. He is a native of this state and has the general interest of this section at heart, advancing them in every way in his power.

Morris W. Stevenson was born at Ionia, Michigan, on April 21, 1860, son of Edward and Margaret (Kidd) Stevenson, the former of whom was a native of England and the latter of New York state. Edward Stevenson was the son of Jesse Stevenson and wife and accompanied them to this country in 1834, the family locating at Ionia, this state, where both Jesse Stevenson and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of six children, Jessie, John, George, Edward, Kate and one who died in youth.

Edward Stevenson was trained as a shoemaker in his English home and for some time after settling at Ionia worked at that trade. He later went to Grand Rapids, where he started a shoe shop, which he conducted for several years, at the end of which time he returned to Ionia and there became a pioneer merchant and was thus engaged until his appointment to the office of register of the United States land office at Ionia, in which capacity he served for some years. He later, in 1862, was appointed postmaster at Ionia, and served in that capacity for quite a term. He died at

the age of sixty-eight years while on a visit to Stanton. His widow, who survived him many years, died at Stanton at the age of eighty-six. She was a member of the Christian (Disciples) church and he was a member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Stevenson, who was Margaret Kidd before her marriage, came to Michigan with her parents from New York state many years ago, the family locating in the Ionia neighborhood in the thirties, becoming pioneer farmers. Mrs. Stevenson was one of six children born to her parents, the only one of whom now surviving being Elsie, who is past eighty-eight years of age, the others having been James, Thomas, Robert, Mary and Margaret E. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson were the parents of six children, Mary, who is the wife of John W. Crinns; Hampton E., James J., Frank T., Morris W. and William K.

Morris W. Stevenson was reared in Ionia, receiving his education in the public schools of that place. As a boy he learned the printer's trade and worked in the newspaper office there for some time, but after his father's appointment as register of the land office, he became a clerk in the latter office, where he remained five years, performing excellent service in that capacity. In 1892 he located in Stanton, this county, where, in company with his brother, Hampton E., he established the business in which he is still so successfully engaged. This partnership continued for a period of eight years, at the end of which time Mr. Stevenson bought his brother's interest and has since been conducting the business alone. His is one of the best-stocked general stores in this part of the state, quite a force of clerks being required in the establishment, wherein are handled dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, ladies' and men's furnishings and groceries.

On April 21, 1881, Morris W. Stevenson was united in marriage to Della S. Morris, who was born near Birmingham, Oakland county, this state, daughter of George W. and Lovina (Martin) Morris, both natives of New York state and early settlers in Oakland county. He and his wife, both of whom now are deceased, were the parents of two daughters, Della S. and Hattie E. Mrs. Stevenson's paternal grandfather, Benjamin Morris, came to this state from Morrisville, New York, which town was named in his honor, and he and his wife were the parents of three children, Libbie, Belle and George. William Martin, Mrs. Stevenson's maternal grandfather, and his wife also were natives of New York state who settled in Oakland county at an early day in the settlement of that section, spending the remainder of their lives there, both living to a ripe old age. They were the parents of five children, E. Broox, Clark, George, Ellen and Lovina.

To Morris W. and Della S. (Morris) Stevenson one son has been

born, George M., who is attending high school. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson take a proper part in the social activities of Stanton and are held in high regard by their friends there. Mr. Stevenson is a Republican and ever since his arrival in Stanton has given thoughtful attention to political affairs. Shortly after locating there he was elected alderman, in which capacity he served for one term, and later was elected mayor of Stanton, in which office he served for six years, his executive judgment in the administration of the affairs of that office having been valuable to the community. Mr. Stevenson also was president of the school board for a period of five years and in that capacity likewise rendered admirable service. Another public service of which he feels justly proud, was his act, ably assisted by Delos A. Towle and Elliot O. Bellows, in constructing ten and one-half miles of public and "state reward" roads, for which service, by the way, he never received any monetary compensation, but he is content now to regard the performance of this signal deed of public service as its own reward.

Mr. Stevenson finds time amid the arduous duties of his extensive business operations, to participate in other enterprises in and around Stanton, among his other connections being that of director in the State Savings Bank of Stanton and president of the Stanton Hotel Association. He is an energetic and public-spirited citizen who enjoys the full confidence of the entire community.

ALLEN L. COREY, M. D.

Forty years of practice in and around Stanton, this county, has given Dr. Allen L. Corey an acquaintance hereabout which covers not only Montcalm county, but the counties adjacent thereto, and there is perhaps no person in this section of the state better known than he.

Allen L. Corey was born on a farm in the vicinity of Lapeer, this state, on December 7, 1844, son of Jabesh M. and Eunice (Howland) Corey, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Jabesh Corey was reared as a farmer in Pennsylvania and upon reaching manhood's estate emigrated to Michigan, settling in Lapeer county, where he bought a quarter of a section of land which he cleared and brought to an excellent state of cultivation. Shortly after settling in Lapeer county he married Eunice Howland, daughter of Judge Howland, a native of Massachusetts, for many years justice of the peace in Lapeer townshp, that county, and to this union were born eight children, namely: Eveline, who died unmarried; Egbert,

deceased; Clara, deceased, who was the wife of Henry W. Shaw; Alexander, deceased; Frances, who died unmarried; Allen L., the subject of this sketch; Diantha, widow of O. F. France, an attorney, of Toledo, Ohio, and one son who died in youth. Both Jabesh M. Corey and his wife spent their last days on the home farm, the former dying before he was sixty years of age, his widow surviving him about three months. They were Methodists and for years were active in all good works in their vicinage. Judge Howland and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Corey was the eldest, the others, now all deceased, having been Rosanna, Susan, John, Ira, Ephraim, Thomas and Hozial.

Allen L. Corey was reared on the paternal farm in Lapeer county, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in Lapeer Academy, following which he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and was graduated from the medical department of that excellent institution in 1868. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Corey returned to Lapeer county and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Inlay City, that county, where he remained a year, at the end of which time he moved to North Branch, same county, where he remained until 1870, in which year he located in Ionia, this state, where he was in practice for four years. In 1875 Doctor Corey came to Montcalm county and located at Stanton, where he has ever since been engaged in the practice of his profession and has been very successful. Doctor Corey is a physician of wide learning, whose studies keep him constantly advised of the important advancements in modern medicine and surgery, and who is thus conversant with the wonderful progress made in medical science during recent years. His medical course at Ann Arbor comprised a period of four years and this he supplemented, some years after locating at Stanton, by a post-graduate course at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at New York City, from which institution he was graduated in 1885.

During his residence in Ionia, Doctor Corey was united in marriage to Augusta Fiero, whose parents were natives of New York and early settlers in Ionia. Mrs. Corey's father died at Muir, this state, and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring at Stanton, this county, she being past seventy years of age at the time of her death. To Doctor and Mrs. Corey three children have been born, Lutie, who married William Pettitt, of Stanton, and has two children: Claude, who died at the age of four years, and Velmer, who is at home. Mrs. Corey is a member of the Methodist church and both she and the doctor for years have taken an active part in

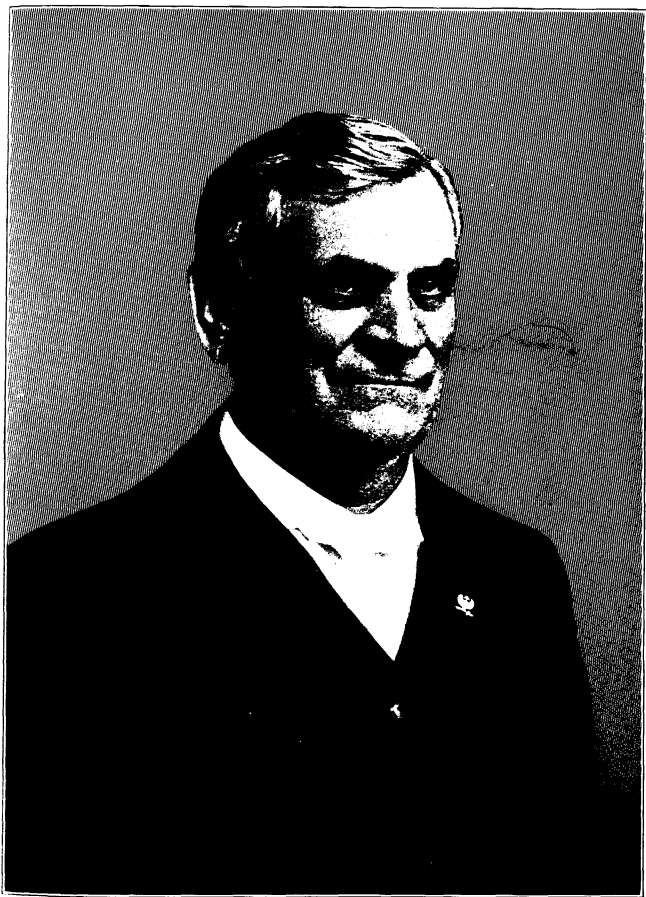
the social and cultural life of the city. Both are held in the very highest esteem throughout this whole section and have many friends hereabout.

Doctor Corey is a Republican and ever has given a good citizen's attention to political affairs. For four years he served as pensioner examiner in this district. He is a member of Stanton Lodge No. 202, Free and Accepted Masons, and has attained to the chapter in that order. In general public affairs he ever has displayed a degree of interest that marks him as a public-spirited and progressive citizen and is long residence in Stanton gives to his counsels a value which is appreciated in all quarters, the good doctor's influence being felt in all movements designed to better conditions along all lines of human endeavor throughout this section.

HON. EDGAR S. WAGAR.

In the memorial annals of Montcalm county, no name stands out more distinctively than that of the late Hon. Edgar S. Wagar, former state senator from this district and for many years one of the most prominent lumber men and bankers of this county, whose death at his home in Edmore on July 17, 1914, was widely mourned hereabouts, for he ever had been a man true in all the relations of life and had well earned the high regard in which he was held throughout this section of the state.

Edgar S. Wagar was a native son of Michigan, having been born at Constantine, St. Joseph county, this state, on August 30, 1850, son of Oris B. and Wealthy (Shaw) Wagar, both natives of Ontario county, New York, where they grew up and where they were married. Oris B. Wagar was born on December 15, 1819, son of Abram and Hannah (Washburn) Wagar, both natives of New York state, the former of whom was of German descent, and who were the parents of ten children, Catherine, Sarah, Esther Marie, Oris B., Sarah, Caroline E., Zephaniah, Isaac W., Cornelia M., and Mary Jane, of whom the last named is now the sole survivor. Mary Jane Wagar was born on June 18, 1839, and was five years old when the family moved to Constantine, St. Joseph county, this state, where she grew to womanhood and where she married, February 6, 1859, Perry Holmes, who was born at Wooster, Ohio, October 16, 1838, and to this union three children were born, Mina Esther, who married W. A. Courtright and lives in Belvedier township, this county; Sarah, who died at the age of two



HON. EDGAR S. WAGAR.

years, and Frank L., a well-known barber at Edmore. Mrs. Holmes for years has been a resident of Edmore, where she is still living.

Oris B. Wagar and wife moved from New York state to Constantine, St. Joseph county, shortly after their marriage and there they established their permanent home. Mr. Wagar bought a heavily-timbered tract of land there and proceeded to clear the same, presently becoming recognized as one of the most substantial farmers thereabout. He erected fine buildings on his place and brought his farm to a high state of cultivation, becoming quite well-to-do, a man of substance, possessing wide influence for good in the community. He died on December 8, 1888, at the age of sixty-nine, and his widow survived him about seven years, her death also occurring on the old home farm. They were the parents of five children, Dr. Floyd G. Wagar, of Wolverine, Michigan; Mrs. Annette Brower, of Constantine; Guy, who died at the age of two years; the late Edgar S. Wagar, former state senator from this district, the subject of this memorial sketch, and Louella, who still lives on the old home farm in St. Joseph county, which was under the management of her brother, Edgar S., until the latter's death in 1914.

Edgar S. Wagar was reared on the home farm in St. Joseph county, receiving his education in the local schools of that neighborhood, and at the age of eighteen went to Cedar Rapids, where he engaged as clerk in a store. He married there in the fall of 1875 and continued to make that place his home until 1878, in which year he came to this country and located at Edmore, where he engaged in the general hardware business. In 1887, when the lumbering business was at its height, he sold his store and engaged in the lumber and shingle trade, in which he became quite successful. In 1897 Mr. Wagar succeeded Mr. Wisner in the banking business at Edmore, operating the concern as the E. S. Wagar Bank (private), until 1908, in which year it was incorporated as the Peoples State Bank. He was elected the first president of this bank and continued in that position throughout the rest of his life. Mr. Wagar was identified with several other enterprises in and about Edmore and was vice-president of the Union Telephone Company.

The energy and enterprise of the late Hon. Edgar S. Wagar were not confined to the business life and activities of this community, for he was equally active in the political life of this section of the state. He was the second president of Edmore and for five or six terms thereafter, at different times, served in a similar capacity, the interests of his home town ever being

dear to his heart. He was an uncompromising Republican and for two years served as chairman of the Republican committee of Montcalm county. For two terms, 1893-96, he served as a member of the lower house of the Michigan General Assembly, representative from Montcalm county, and during the period of that important public service was one of the distinctive figures of the House, having been a member of the ways and means, the finance, the appropriations and other important committees of that body. Following his service in the House, Mr. Wagar was elected to the state Senate, as senator from this district, and served with equal distinction in the upper house of the General Assembly during the two sessions which comprised his term, 1897-1900. Senator Wagar, at the time of his death, was a member of the board of control of the state hospital for the insane at Traverse City, under appointment from Governor Warner, and took an active and influential part in the affairs of that body. In point of service Senator Wagar was the oldest business man in Edmore, having engaged there in July, 1878, and was a man of wide influence in the business life of the community. In religious and fraternal circles he also took a prominent part. For many years he was one of the leaders in the local Methodist Episcopal church, president of the Epworth League and superintendent of the Sunday school, and was a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

On October 29, 1875, at Cedar Rapids, Michigan, Edgar S. Wagar was united in marriage to Louisa Pfeiffer, who was born at East Saginaw, this state, May 25, 1850, daughter of Gottlieb and Christina (Katz) Pfeiffer, both natives of the province of Wittenberg, Germany, who were married at Ann Arbor, this state, where Gottlieb Pfeiffer was then engaged as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Christina Katz was a young girl when she accompanied her family to this country. Her father died and was buried at sea. The remainder of the family located at Ann Arbor, where Christina married Gottlieb Pfeiffer, shortly thereafter moving to East Saginaw, where Gottlieb Pfeiffer met his death in 1854 by falling from a scaffold while building a house, leaving three children, Catherine, who died in 1915; Louisa, who married Mr. Wagar, and John W., of Edmore, this county. The widow Pfeiffer married at Ann Arbor, to which place she had returned with her children after the death of her husband, Jefferson Burch, and to this union were born four children, as follow: Mrs. Susan Coy, of Home township, this county; Henry, who is in business with his half-brother, John W. Pfeiffer, at Petosky; Mrs. Geneva Hutchinson, of Alma,

and Mrs. Martha Horton, of Home township, this county. The mother of these children died in Chicago. To Edgar S. and Louisa (Pfeifer) Wagar one child was born, a son, Harry E. Wagar, cashier of the Peoples State Bank at Edmore and president of the village, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Wagar is still living at Edmore, where she long has quietly exerted her gentle influence for good and where she is held in the very highest esteem by all.

EDWARD C. CUMMINGS.

Among the able business men and influential citizens of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, none have taken a more useful and helpful part, in local affairs, than has Edward C. Cummings, president of the State Bank of Carson City, and a man for forty years a financier and organizer.

Edward C. Cummings, who was born in Erie county, New York, on April 16, 1837, received only a district school education, doing chores for his board while attending his classes, after completing which, he began, when thirteen years of age, to make his own living in the world. After some time as a farm helper in his community, Edward C. Cummings, when about twenty-three years of age, went to the Oil creek region of Pennsylvania, and during the days of high tide in the oil-fields of that state, he became a teamster, later securing boats, as carriers for oil, which he towed up the creek, in this way earning a large sum of money, with which he established himself in the world, after two years in the oil-fields. On account of the oil gases affecting his health, Edward C. Cummings retired from the oil fields, and about the year 1866, came to Michigan, locating at Ithica, Gratiot county, where Mr. Cummings became a partner in the mercantile firm known as Shepard & Cummings, a business in which Edward C. Cummings continued for about four years, and then, having suffered the loss of his wife, by death, Mr. Cummings travelled in the West, for the next year.

About the year 1871, Edward C. Cummings came to Carson City, Montcalm county, at a time when the town was yet in its infancy, settled largely by lumber men and pioneers, and established a general store, a business which he followed until 1875, and then, after about one year in preparation, in 1876, he opened the first bank of Carson City, a private institution known as the banking house of E. C. Cummings, and with which he has since been officially connected. In addition to his financial

activity, Mr. Cummings has engaged extensively in agricultural pursuits, at one time having been the cultivator of two hundred and fifty acres of land, in Montcalm county, much of which land was devoted to the culture of alfalfa, a product in the raising of which, he was recognized as an authority.

About the year 1858, Edward C. Cummings was married to Hulda Ann Parsons, who was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, where they were married. In 1870 Mrs. Cummings died, survived by her husband and three children: Carrie, who is now cashier of the bank at Crystal, Montcalm county, and who was married to Elam Willetts, there being born to this marriage two children, Harry, who died at twenty years of age, and Louisa, a public school teacher, of Detroit, and after the death of her husband, Carrie (Cummings) Willetts married William Granger; Morton P., of California, who is married and the father of two children, and Burton, an employee of the street railway company of Erie, Pennsylvania, who is married and the father of three children.

In 1871, Edward C. Cummings was married to Laura H. Barton, of Gratiot county, who was born near Kent, Ohio, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Barton, who moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, in pioneer times, and there Samuel Barton farmed on one hundred and sixty acres of land for the remainder of his days, dying at the age of ninety years, while his widow, Sarah, lived to the advanced age of one hundred and three years. To the marriage of Edward C. and Laura H. Cummings have been born three children: Ira, who after the completion of his education at a commercial school, at Detroit, is now cashier of the State Bank of Carson City, also being interested in the other banking connections of his father, and who was married to Minnie Cox, and they are the parents of two children, Cecil and Edward; Ora, of Billings, Montana, who is the wife of Roy J. Covert, who are the parents of two children, Paul and Gerald, and Lottie, who is the wife of Don R. Bennett, of Detroit.

As a banker, Edward C. Cummings has not only made the State Bank of Carson City one of the leading banks of the county and vicinity, but he has enlarged on the sphere of his activity as a financier, Mr. Cummings and his son Ira, now having stock and influence in the affairs of the banks at Crystal, Montcalm county, and they are interested as half owners in the Bank of Hubbardston, the latter a private banking house, owned jointly with Ruel and Absden, bankers of Ionia county, Michigan.

The State Bank of Carson City, a lasting tribute to the ability of Edward C. Cummings, was organized in 1876, as a private financial insti-

tation, known as the banking house of E. C. Cummings. In 1887, after a prosperous decade of service, the town of Carson City gave more promise as a town, as the result of a railroad reaching it, and at this time, in anticipation of future business, the banking house of E. C. Cummings was reorganized under the name of the State Bank of Carson City, with an authorized capital of fifty thousand dollars. For the first five years of the newly-incorporated bank, Edward C. Cummings served as president and cashier. At the end of this time, Mr. Cummings declining to serve in his dual capacity, John W. Hallett was elected to the office of president, while Edward C. Cummings continued in the office of cashier. In 1913, Mr. Cummings was again elected to serve as president of the State Bank of Carson City, and Ira Cummings became cashier, a management which has existed since that time.

At an early date the capital stock of the State Bank of Carson City was reduced to twenty-five thousand dollars, but in 1913, the stock was again increased to fifty thousand dollars, and from that time, this flourishing and well-managed banking institution has prospered and triumphantly overcame the trying times of 1893 and 1908, and has increased its business activities, notwithstanding keen competition.

JOHN W. CAMPBELL.

To the traveling public of this section of the state the Montcalm hotel at Stanton, this county needs no introduction, nor do "mine host" Campbell and his good wife, who have made this well-known hostelry one of the most popular hotels in this part of Michigan. As his name indicates, John W. Campbell, proprietor of the Montcalm hotel, is of Scottish descent, his paternal grandparents, John and Eliza (Halleck) Campbell, having been born in the land o' cakes, the bonny land of the thistle and the heather. Shortly after their marriage, John Campbell and his wife emigrated from Scotland to America and settled at Bath, New York, where the former spent the rest of his life. His wife survived him and died at Rockford, Illinois. They were the parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters, Henry, George, Fred, Charles, Robert, Lida and Kate.

Robert Campbell, fifth son of John and Eliza (Halleck) Campbell, was born in Bath, New York, where he grew to manhood, receiving his education in Haviland Academy. Upon the breaking out of the Civil War, he

enlisted in a New York regiment and served for several years, being honorably discharged at the close of the service. After the war he was for a time engaged in the butcher business and later in the music business. In the meantime he had married and in 1872 he and his family came to Michigan, locating at Sheridan, in this county, where for a time Mr. Campbell worked in the timber. Later he bought a farm of sixty acres in Evergreen township, this county, which he cleared and sold, after which he retired and moved to Stanton, where he died in 1905, at the age of sixty-one years. His widow is still living, making her home at Stanton, where she has many friends who hold her in high regard. Mrs. Campbell, before her marriage, was Frances Curtis. She was born in Prattsburg, Steuben county, New York, daughter and only child of John W. and Elizabeth (Strickland) Curtis, both natives of that same county. John W. Curtis was a farmer, who later sold music and agricultural implements. He died at Hammondsport, Steuben county, New York, at the age of sixty-four and his widow is still living, at the age of eighty-three. To Robert and Frances (Curtis) Campbell were born but two children, John W., the subject of this sketch, and Carrie, who died in infancy.

John W. Campbell was born at Bath, Steuben county, New York, on June 28, 1870, and was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to this county. He grew up on his father's farm in Evergreen township, receiving his education in the district schools, and until the time of his marriage, in 1896, worked in the timber. He then went to Crystal Lake, this county, where he engaged in the hotel and livery business and was thus engaged at that point for seven years, at the end of which time he moved to Stanton, where for a few years he was engaged in the livery business. He then sold out and went to Clifford Lake and bought the resort hotel there, which he conducted for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Stanton and leased the Montcalm hotel, which he ever since has been conducting in first-class style and of which he has made a decided success.

On March 18, 1896, John W. Campbell was united in marriage to Sophia Hepburn, who was born in St. Thomas, Canada, daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca (Mitchell) Hepburn, natives, respectively, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and St. Thomas, Canada, who were the parents of nine children, Robert, Benoni, Samuel, Sophia, Albert, James, Charles, Olia and George. Mrs. Hepburn died at Crystal Lake, this county, in 1899, at the age of fifty-three years. Mr. Hepburn is still living and makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Campbell. To John W. and Sophia (Hepburn) Campbell one child has been born, a son, Don, born on February 28, 1897, who died on

April 13, 1898. Mrs. Campbell's Grandfather Mitchell and his wife were both natives of Ireland, who emigrated to Canada, where they spent the rest of their lives on a farm. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom mention is made of Rebecca Ellen, Lizzie, Martha, Margaret, Thomas, Samuel and George. Mrs. Campbell's grandfather Hepburn and his wife were natives, respectively, of Scotland and of Canada, the former of whom died in middle life and the latter of whom lived to old age. They were the parents of eight children, Benjamin, Lena, Sophia, Martha, Jessie, Tina, Esther and Jesse.

John W. Campbell is a Republican and for years has taken an active interest in the politics of the county. He was made deputy sheriff of Montcalm county, under Sheriff E. O. Bellows, in 1903, and, with the exception of two years, has held that important office ever since, an ample evidence of his efficiency as a public officer. Mr. Campbell is a Mason and an Odd Fellow, member of the lodges of those two orders at Stanton, and has attained to the encampment degree of the latter order. He also is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Ionia, and a member of the Equitable Fraternal Union, in all of which orders he takes an active part and among the members of which he is deservedly popular.

While Mr. Campbell is a thorough-going and up-to-date hotel man, he is not entitled to all credit for the success he has made as proprietor of the Montcalm hotel, for to Mrs. Campbell must be ascribed equal credit for making that house one of the best hotels in south central Michigan. Both are well-known among the commercial travelers who cover this district and their house receives an extensive patronage.

ALLEN B. DICKERSON.

Allen B. Dickerson, who in 1910 was elected register of deeds for Montcalm county and who is now serving the public acceptably in that capacity, was born in Hanover, Jackson county, this state, on August 29, 1861, son of Jacob M. and Theresa (Forward) Dickerson, both natives of Ohio.

Jacob M. Dickerson was married at the age of eighteen and began "doing for himself" by cutting cord-wood. He presently learned the carpenter trade and followed that for some years. In the latter fifties he and his wife came to Michigan and for a time lived in Jackson township, where the subject of this sketch was born. In 1861 they returned to Ohio and

while living there, Jacob M. Dickerson rendered service to the Union cause during the Civil War as a member of the famous Ohio "squirrel hunters" brigade. In 1865 he and his family returned to Michigan, locating in Bushnell township, this county, where he bought a farm of eighty acres of timber land which he cleared and improved and there he reared his family, living there until 1869, in which year he was elected to the office of probate judge of Montcalm county, after which he moved to Stanton, the county seat, where he remained for four years, the period of the tenure of his office, at the end of which time he bought a farm in Winfield township, this county, onto which he retired, and there he spent the remainder of his days, his widow surviving him some years. Both Judge Dickerson, and his wife were valued citizens of Montcalm county and the memory of their lives here long will be kept fresh in the annals of this community. Not only in his service as probate judge, but in other ways did Judge Dickerson demonstrate his intelligent interest in public affairs and he was for years accounted one of the county's leading men. During his residence in Bushnell township he served very usefully as supervisor and during the time of his residence in Winfield township performed a like service in behalf of the public, to whose interests he ever was devoted.

Judge Dickerson and his wife were the parents of five children, namely: Lyman W., deceased; Freeman B., of Detroit; Clara, who is the wife of Harmon Rassman, of Lake View, this county, G. Clinton, of Big Rapids, this state, and Allen B., register of deeds for Montcalm county, the subject of this sketch. Judge and Mrs. Dickerson were attendants of the Methodist church and their children were reared in that faith.

Allen B. Dickerson was reared on the paternal farm in Bushnell township, having been but five years old when his parents located there, and his early education was received in the district schools of that township and in the high school at Lake View. Following the high school course he entered Rork College, but on account of ill health was compelled to discontinue his studies there before he had finished the course. He later took a business course in McLaughlin's College, at Chatham, Canada, and from that institution was called to an office position in Detroit, in which he served for one year, at the end of which time he returned to his father's farm in Winfield township, where he remained up to 1907. After the death of his father he bought the several interests of the other heirs. He retained this farm which consisted of two hundred acres, until December, 1909, when he sold all but forty acres. In 1907 Mr. Dickerson moved to Lake View, this county, and

remained there until 1910, in which year he was elected register of deeds for Montcalm county, after which he moved to Stanton, the county seat, entering upon the duties of the office in January, 1911, and is still the incumbent in that important office, performing his duties in behalf of the public in a very efficient and painstaking manner.

On April 5, 1893, Allen B. Dickerson was united in marriage to Hattie Clark, who was born in Eureka township, daughter of George and Maria (Buckle) Clark, prominent residents of this county, both of whom now are deceased, and to this union two children have been born, Mildred T. and Clark A. Mrs. Dickerson is the second in order of birth of the four children born to her parents, the others being Mortimer, Helen and Jay, the latter of whom is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Dickerson are identified with the social activities of Stanton and are popular both there and at Lake View, having many friends who hold them in high esteem.

Mr. Dickerson is a Republican and for years has taken a prominent part in the county's official affairs. During his residence in Winfield township, he acted as supervisor of that township for seven years. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Lake View and of the chapter of the same order at Stanton, and is also a member of the Woodmen and of the Maccabees, in all of which orders he takes a warm interest. In official and business circles he is held in high regard and is looked upon as one of Montcalm county's leading citizens.

THOMAS J. POTTER.

Thomas J. Potter, who after an active and useful career as a business man, lumber dealer, organizer and financier, and as a citizen who after having taken no inconsiderable part in the development of this community and in the conduct of its public and official affairs, has now retired from active life, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, on December 19, 1843, a son of William T. and Celestia (Flint) Potter, of New York state, where they grew to maturity and were married.

In 1846, William T. Potter moved to Michigan, and started a small store at Lincoln's Mill, located near the mouth of Black Creek. Later, the elder Potter bought a mill, which he operated near the site of the present Wright's mill, until 1856, and then coming to Greenville, at a time when this town was but a village settlement, he made his home at this place for some time, later going to Lowell, also to Grand Haven, Michigan, where he

conducted hotels for the remainder of his active life, dying at Lowell, Michigan.

William T. Potter was one of the best-known men of his time in Greenville and vicinity. Mr. Potter was the first justice of the peace of Montcalm township, was a supervisor of the same township, and a man who was always actively interested in the development and advancement of the community.

William T. and Celestia Potter were the parents of seven children: Julia, deceased; Alma, Thomas, George, deceased; Carrie, Frank, and Effie.

Thomas J. Potter, who has spent his entire active life as a resident of Montcalm county and vicinity, received his early education in the common schools of this county. After completing his school days, he lived at home until 1862, when he enlisted with Company F, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served in the Civil War, as a duty sergeant, in the Army of the Cumberland, and which was a part of the army of General Thomas for the remainder of the war.

After the close of the Civil War, Thomas J. Potter returned to Greenville, Montcalm county, and shortly afterward entered the mercantile business as a member of the firm of Rider & Potter, a partnership which continued until 1871, when Mr. Potter purchased the interests of his partner and conducted the store as sole proprietor, for about two years. In 1873, Mr. Potter disposed of his mercantile house, and he engaged in the lumber business, in which he was successfully engaged until 1887, when he retired from the lumber business and since has devoted a part of his time to various pursuits, among which was his activity in the organization of the Commercial State Saving Bank, an institution of which Mr. Potter became the first president. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Potter, during his active days, cared for and superintended the cultivation of his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Fair Plains township, this county. Mr. Potter now has retired from active work and lives in a substantial brick residence, which he built at 220 West Cass street, in 1873.

In April, 1867, Thomas J. Potter was married to Florence Moore, who was born in Ionia county, Michigan, in 1844. To that marriage have been born seven children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being Evelyn, a graduate of the Greenville high school, and now the widow of John Grover; Gertrude P.; Roy E., who after graduating from the Greenville high school, became a farmer of Montcalm county; Violet, who was graduated from the Greenville high school, now living at home, and Ellis J., a graduate of the Greenville high school, now an architect at Detroit.

Fraternally, Mr. Potter is one of the leading men of Montcalm county, being a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons; he is a member of Greenville Chapter No. 79, Royal Arch Masons, of which he is past high priest; Mr. Potter is a Shriner and a thirty-second degree Mason. Mr. Potter also is active in the Grand Army of the Republic post at Greenville.

As an official and citizen, influential in political affairs of this community, Mr. Potter is well known, having served as a supervisor of this township, as township treasurer, as an alderman of Greenville, and for twelve years, he was president of the board of public works. Politically, Mr. Potter is a Democrat.

RAYMOND A. BROWN.

Raymond A. Brown, prominent funeral director and embalmer, and a citizen active in the public life of Greenville, Montcalm county, was born at Plymouth, Wayne county, Michigan, on September 3, 1884, a son of Ammon and Ada (Dickerson) Brown, who are farmers of Wayne county, and the parents of five children, of whom Raymond A. is the second born.

Raymond A. Brown was reared on the home farm and was educated in the public schools and at the high school of Plymouth, Michigan. After the completion of his education, Mr. Brown was employed for two years in the signal department of the Pere Marquette Railway Company, after which he engaged in the furniture business at Plymouth for about three years. In November, 1908, Raymond A. Brown came to Greenville, Montcalm county, where he has since continued in the furniture business, together with caring for his extensive patronage as a licensed embalmer and funeral director.

As a business man, Mr. Brown is a member of the Miller and Harris Furniture Company, of which George Miller, of Hastings, is president; A. M. Hall, of Belding, vice-president, and M. J. Brown, of Greenville, secretary and treasurer, the directors being the foregoing, with the addition of Raymond A. Brown. The Miller and Harris Furniture Company operate business houses at Hastings and at Belding, as well as at Greenville.

In May, 1908, Raymond A. Brown was married to Carrie Stewart, of Wayne county, Michigan, and to this marriage has been born one son, Lawrence, who is a student in the public schools of Greenville. Mr. Brown and his wife are active members of the Methodist church at Greenville.

Raymond A. Brown has been active in the politics of Greenville and of

Montcalm county for several years, his standing as a political worker being indicated by his election as president of the Greenville Republican Club.

Fraternally, Mr. Brown takes a prominent place in Greenville, being a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, a chapter of which he is past chancellor, as well as being a member of the grand lodge. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees lodge at Greenville.

As a citizen and as a business man, Raymond A. Brown holds an important and a highly-appreciated place in Greenville, his unselfish nature and his public-spirited interest in the welfare of the community, having given him a prominent place among the leaders of useful movements and activities in this community.

HARVEY W. RICE.

Harvey W. Rice, justice of the peace, Stanton, Michigan, was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, May 14, 1832, son of Calvin M. and Aurelia (Walker) Rice, the parents being natives of that state; and of nine children born to them but three are living, namely: Harvey W.; Alonzo, of Ionia, Michigan; Aurelia, widow of John Fleming, Chicago; the deceased were Alvin, William, George, Ellen and Addison, the last named dying young, and Ellen died after her marriage to Eli Burrett. The father, Calvin M. was reared in Massachusetts, and came to Ionia, Michigan, in 1836. Prior to coming West he was in the clothing business, but here became a farmer in Easton township, Ionia county, and owned eighty acres of land a part of which is now occupied as the site of Ionia City. He improved the farm and there reared his family, dying there in 1885, aged over eighty-one years. His wife, the mother of Harvey W., died in 1847. They were amongst the earliest pioneers. The father married a second time, and second wife was Mrs. Fidelia L. Thomas, a widow, also from Massachusetts, and by her had one child, Fidelia L., widow of David Jennings, and she resides at Sturgis, Michigan.

The paternal grandfather of Harvey W. died in Massachusetts, where his wife also died, after having reared a large family, Benjamin, Sarah, Charlotte, Calvin M., and others. Likewise, the maternal grandparents died in Massachusetts. They were farmers and reared a family, Aurelia being one, and others who died so long ago that their names are forgotten.

Harvey W. Rice from the time he was four years of age to nineteen, lived with his parents on the farm, and attended the old-fashioned subscrip-

tion schools. He then learned the carpenter trade, and followed it a number of years. He went to California in 1860, by way of the Isthmus, and followed his trade there most of the time in conjunction with other pursuits, and in the autumn of 1861 returned to Ionia, Michigan, where he resided until 1867, when he came to Stanton, for permanent residence, a period of forty-eight years. During the first nine years of his residence at Stanton he had a general store, and also operated lumber and milling business. Then, for a number of years was deputy and under-sheriff. He was elected justice of the peace in 1893, and has held that office continuously since, excepting one term. In the meantime he has sold real estate and loaned money.

On September 20, 1854, he married Miss Phoebe J. Cheney, daughter of Elisha P. and Fanny Cheney, and one child was born to them, Estella F., who subsequently became the wife of Mortimer H. Bachman of Stanton. They had two children, Clifton H. and Edna, the latter dying at the age of sixteen years.

Mrs. Harvey W. Rice is a member of the Congregational church. She was born in New York state, October 14, 1833, they having lived together sixty-one years. Her father was a native of the state of New York, and her mother of Massachusetts, but became early settlers in Ionia county, Michigan, coming there in 1844. Her mother died in Ionia county, and her father in Stanton, Michigan. Their children were Orson, Henry, Jane, Edward, Ann, Mercy, and Phoebe J.

Politically, Harvey W. Rice is a Republican, and in early days was president of the village board.

OSCAR C. MILLER.

Among those citizens who, active in the business and public activities of other days, have now retired to the more quiet walks of life, one of the best-known and most highly respected is Oscar C. Miller, who was born in Orin township, Oakland county, Michigan, on June 6, 1844, a son of Richard C. and Nancy (Carpenter) Miller, the former born in Connecticut, the latter in Massachusetts.

Richard C. Miller moved with his parents to New York state at an early age, and when ten years of age located with his parents at Detroit, Michigan, later, coming to Oakland county. In Oakland county, the elder Miller was married to Nancy Carpenter, who came to Oakland county with her parents from her native state, and Richard C. Miller was a farmer in this county

until 1854, when he and his family moved to Montcalm county. After some years as a farmer in this county, the elder Miller came to Greenville, where he spent his last days, living in the house where his son, Oscar C., now lives. Richard C. Miller died on April 5, 1898, and his wife died on May 15, 1898.

Richard C. Miller was a citizen who was prominent in the public and official affairs of his community, having served for ten years as treasurer of Fairplain township; for forty years was superintendent of the poor of his township, and for two terms he was a member of the Michigan Legislature. Richard C. and Nancy Miller were the parents of three children: Oscar C.; Chester A., a retired farmer, who is now engaged in loaning money in California; and Helen, who died at the age of twenty-three years.

Oscar C. Miller was ten years of age when his parents settled in Montcalm county. After the completion of his education in the common schools of the county, he engaged in farming until 1874, when he went to live in Greenville, and opened a produce house, which he conducted for three years. He then entered the shoe business, following that line of activity, for about thirty years, after which he returned to the produce field, operating a produce market with his son, for fifteen years, under the name of Miller & Miller. For many years, Mr. Miller was also engaged in the shoe business, his firm name being O. C. Miller & Son. During the year 1909, Oscar C. Miller retired from his active interest in the produce business and now lives a retired life, in Greenville, where he is one of the honored men of the town and locality. During all those years he also operated a farm of three hundred and sixty acres near Greenville, and six hundred acres near Gowen, which he partly improved and later sold.

On November 25, 1879, Oscar C. Miller was married to Catherine Berridge, who was a childhood playmate of Mr. Miller. Mrs. Miller moved to Oakland county, Michigan, when she was ten years of age. Oscar C. and Catherine Miller are the parents of four children: Charles M., who is vice-president and manager of the Commercial State Savings Bank of Greenville; Ernest C., who is the proprietor of a shingle-mill, at Aberdeen, Washington; Ralph C., a farmer of Eureka township, Montcalm county; and Julia, who is the wife of Glenn Smith, a shoe merchant, of Greenville.

Oscar C. Miller is connected with some of the leading business enterprises of Greenville, being a stockholder of the Commercial State Savings Bank and a man who is interested in real estate in Greenville and elsewhere. Mr. Miller also is the owner of a farm of ninety acres, in Eureka township.

As a factor in the official life in Greenville and Montcalm county, Mr.

Miller is well and favorably known, having served on the board of aldermen, at Greenville, and on the school board of the same town. He was elected in 1915 as superintendent of the poor, for Montcalm county. In politics, Mr. Miller is a Republican.

Oscar C. Miller is a deacon and for fifteen years has been a trustee of the Congregational church, and he is a prominent member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons.

JAMES T. RIDLEY.

James T. Ridley, well-known business man and citizen, prominent in the public and official affairs of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Canada on November 19, 1863, a son of Thomas and Ann (Noble) Ridley, natives of England.

Thomas Ridley lived in his native country until he was a young man, when he came to America and settled in Canada, where he was married and where he engaged in farming for some time, he also having served for a period as an exciseman. Thomas Ridley was active in the work and worship of the Church of England in his community, and was a man well-known for his part in the general life of the locality in which he resided. The elder Ridley died in 1880; his wife died in 1870. Thomas and Ann Ridley were the parents of nine children, of whom three survive, namely: William, a farmer in Canada; Elizabeth, who married a farmer in Canada, and James T., of this sketch.

James T. Ridley was reared on the home farm in Canada, was educated in the public schools of his locality, after which he helped his father on the farm until twenty-one years of age. He then went to Dakota, where he worked on a farm for two years and then returned to Canada, there engaging in the egg business with David Hill. After two years, Mr. Ridley went to New York City, where he spent one year in an egg commission house and then came to Charlotte, Michigan, and became a partner in the firm of Young & Ridley. In 1894 James T. Ridley came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and engaged in the egg business, first in a small way, but now, as a result of ability and resource, he has built up a large and lucrative trade in his line, being now the proprietor of the "Egg Emporium," one of the best-known houses for the conduct of this line of business to be found in the community. Mr. Ridley not only is the owner of his business and the building

in which he operates it, but he is the owner of eighty acres of good farm land in Canada.

In 1894, James T. Ridley was married to Anna Ellico, who was born and educated in Canada. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ridley.

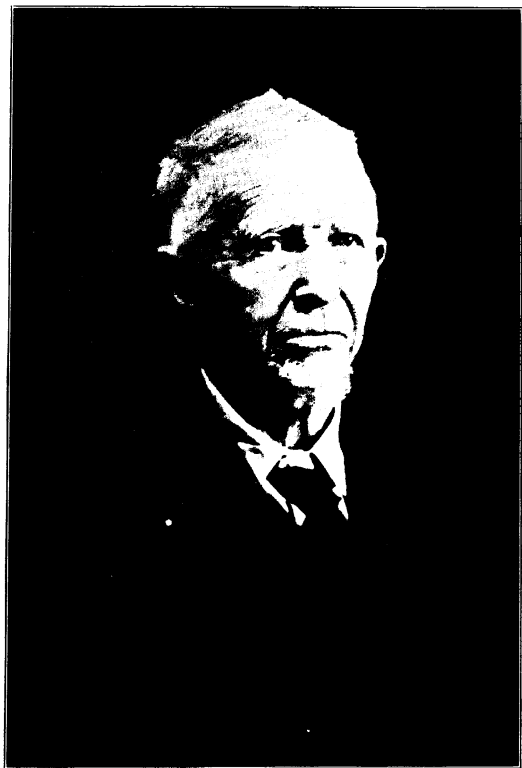
Mr. Ridley is known and prominent in fraternal circles, being a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of America, Mr. Ridley being past chancellor and past venerable consul of the latter organization, and is generally regarded as one of the most esteemed citizens of Greenville, his activity and interest in the town and county, having won for him a place of honor in the community.

Politically, Mr. Ridley has been active and has taken an important part in Greenville affairs, for three terms having been a member of the Greenville city council. In political affiliation, Mr. Ridley is a Republican, being a past president of the Greenville Republican Club.

CAPT. HENRY M. HEMPSTEAD.

Three generations of the Hempstead family have been honorably represented in the wars of this country. Capt. Henry M. Hempstead, an old settler of Montcalm county and one of the best-known men hereabout, performed valiant service in behalf of the Union cause during the Civil War; his father was a doughty soldier during America's second war of independence in 1812, and his grandfather was a no less valiant contender in behalf of independence for the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

Henry M. Hempstead was born in Williamstown, Oswego county, New York, on February 2, 1832, son of Col. William and Marriam (Hyatt) Hempstead, both natives of New York state, the former of whom was the son of Nathan Hempstead, a soldier in the patriot army during the revolutionary War, who died at Frezonia, Chautauqua county, New York, at the age of ninety-three years, and whose wife lived to the age of ninety, having reared a large family, among their children records being preserved which name Isaac, Jonathan, James, William and Mrs. Esther Case. Marriam Hyatt was the daughter of Gilbert Hyatt and wife, early settlers of Williamstown, New York, among whose children mention is made of Mrs. Esther Smith, Mrs. Hyman, Marriam, Robey and Aurelia.



CAPT. HENRY M. HEMPSTEAD.

Col. William Hempstead, who served as a soldier during the War of 1812, kept a tavern in Williamstown and also operated a foundry. He died of pneumonia, after an illness of four days, in 1834, at the age of fifty-one years. His widow survived him until 1865, her death occurring then at the age of seventy-three years. They were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom lived to maturity, William Charles, Mary Ann, Edward James, Catherine, Mary, Jane, Laura, Isaac M., Elvin Arthur, Park and Henry M.

Henry M. Hempstead was but two years of age when his father died. When he was twelve years of age his mother and her family moved to Oswego, where he grew to manhood. When twenty-two years of age he came to Michigan and located at Marshall, where he was a clerk in a store until 1855, in which year he went to Minnesota, locating at Stillwater, where he was a bookkeeper and general clerk in a lumber office in the pineries. The man who employed him finally owed him the sum of twelve hundred dollars, which he was unable to collect on account of extensive losses on the part of the timberman, who, as "conscience money," later gave him a note for five hundred dollars, which, owing to the panic time which ensued in 1857, proved worthless. Thus deprived of the rewards of his labors, Mr. Hempstead returned to Marshall, not well pleased with the outcome of his Minnesota experience. He resumed his former employment as a clerk in a store at Marshall and was there when the Civil War broke out. On August 24, 1861, he enlisted in Company M, Second Regiment, Michigan Cavalry, Francis W. Dickey, captain, which rendezvoused at Grand Rapids. Going into the service as a sergeant, Henry M. Hempstead was promoted to second lieutenant in 1863 and was mustered out with his regiment in 1865 with the rank of captain. Captain Hempstead's regiment participated in many of the most strenuous campaigns and hardest-fought battles of the war and saw a great deal of active service.

After the close of the war, Captain Hempstead returned to Marshall and, in partnership with Tom Marshall, who was second lieutenant in the same company during the war, engaged in the grocery business. In the fall of 1866, Captain Hempstead was elected to the important office of treasurer of Calhoun county and was twice re-elected to the same office, thus serving in all three terms, after which for a time he continued his valuable public service as deputy treasurer. At the end of this service he bought the store in which he had first been employed upon locating at Marshall and for seven or eight years was engaged in the dry-goods busi-

ness. On account of the failing state of his wife's health, he then decided to locate further north and went to Cheboygan, having previously contracted for a store room there. Upon reaching his destination he found that the building was only half completed and he was compelled to store his merchandise in a warehouse for three months. Dissatisfied with this arrangement, Captain Hempstead abandoned further thought of locating at Cheboygan and, in December, 1882, located at Stanton, this county, where for several years he was engaged as manager of the John Weatherwax store, after which he bought out the insurance business conducted by his employer's brother and has been engaged successfully in the insurance business for the past twenty-five years, having made a name in that time as an active and energetic insurance man.

On May 5, 1864, Henry M. Hempstead was united in marriage to Martha A. Hammond, of Marshall, Michigan, daughter of John Hammond and wife, and to this union two children were born, Arthur H. and Henry M., Jr. Arthur H. Hempstead is a successful business man, one of the best-known timber experts in the state of Michigan. For over twenty years he was in the employ of a big lumber firm at Bay City, during which time he spent seven years in Canada, in that company's interest, and is now manager for Merchon, Eddy & Parker Company at Saginaw. He married Belle Ford and has two children, Helen E. and Henry M., the third. Henry M. Hempstead, Jr., who married Lotta May Dunn, died on April 18, 1908. Mrs. Martha A. Hempstead died on April 10, 1872, at the age of thirty-three years, and on April 23, 1873, Captain Hempstead married, secondly, Persis A. Hammond, his deceased wife's sister, which union was without issue. The second Mrs. Hempstead died on May 24, 1893, at the age of forty-seven.

Captain Hempstead is a Republican and for years has taken a warm interest in Stanton's civic affairs and in the politics of Montcalm county generally. For one term he served the public as city treasurer of Stanton and in other ways has given of his time to administrative affairs in the public service. The Captain is one of the six remaining members of Stanton Post No. 176, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, and for many years has devoted his time and energies to the interests of that post. Despite the fact that the snows of eighty-three winters have fallen upon the stalwart shoulders of Captain Hempstead, he is still active in business and vigorous physically and is accounted one of Stanton's energetic and enterprising business men. He has a very wide acquaintance throughout the county and is held in the highest esteem by all.

ARTHUR J. TAYLOR.

Arthur J. Taylor, county drain commissioner and a citizen who has been prominent in the agricultural and business circles, as well as taking a leading place in the public affairs of Montcalm township, Montcalm county, was born in Greenville, this county, on August 22, 1868, a son of William and Elsie (Hodge) Taylor, the former born on October 30, 1834, in Staplehurst, England, a son of William and Sarah (Barden) Taylor; the latter born at Sherman, New York, in 1837, a daughter of Francis and Ann Hodge.

William Taylor received his early education in the schools of his native land, after which he came to America, with his parents, in July, 1848, completing his education in the schools of this country. In 1868, after having been married on March 19, 1855, in Sherman, New York, to Elsie Jane Hodge, William Taylor moved to Montcalm county, and bought forty acres of land, which he improved and cultivated, a few years later, adding forty acres to his farm, which he cultivated as a general farmer until 1895, when he retired from agricultural activity and moved to Greenville, where he now lives.

On April 24, 1874, Elsie Jane, the wife of William Taylor, died, survived by her husband and five children: Anna, born on June 9, 1857; Rose, May 19, 1859; Lillian, February 14, 1861; William H., April 7, 1863, and Arthur J., August 22, 1868. In 1895, Mr. Taylor was married to Mrs. Mary E. Stokes, no children being born to this union.

William Taylor is one of the best known men of the community, one who has been active as a citizen; taking his place in the official life of his township and county, during many years as a Republican and was elected as the candidate of his party to various offices, among which are those of road commissioner, school inspector and assessor.

As a church worker, the elder Taylor is well known and appreciated, having for more than sixty years served the Methodist church, his affiliation with the church, which started when he was but twenty-three years of age, Mr. Taylor believes to be one of the best acts of his life. Not only is William Taylor a prominent member of the Methodist church, but his wife and all of his children are active in its affairs. Fraternally, William Taylor is a member of the Montcalm Grange, he having affiliated himself with this organization in 1874, since which time he has served in nearly all of the offices and now is the honored chaplain of this order.

Arthur J. Taylor received a limited education in the schools of Green-

ville, near where he was reared on the home farm. After his school days, Mr. Taylor worked as a farmer on the place of his father for some time, also spending a few winters in the lumber camps of the vicinity. Following his agricultural life at home, in 1905, he came to Stanton, Montcalm county, and engaged in the hardware and implement business, being associated with John Stearns in this line, until 1908, when Mr. Taylor purchased the interest of Mr. Stearns, after which he conducted the business as sole proprietor until 1910, when he became a salesman for lightning rods, continuing in this business until 1912.

In 1912, Arthur J. Taylor was elected to the office of drain commissioner of Montcalm county, which office he now serves, his ability and efficiency in this capacity resulting in the construction of the noted Butternut creek drain, which was constructed successfully regardless of strong opposition. Politically, Mr. Taylor is a Republican.

In 1890, Arthur J. Taylor was married to Myrta Van Wyck, a native of Michigan, and to this marriage have been born two children: Elsie, who after completing her education at the Stanton high school, became a school teacher, for two years, until her marriage to Raymond Slankar, of Detroit, and Arthur C., a graduate of the Stanton high school, formerly a school teacher, now an employe of the Northway Motor Company, of Detroit.

Arthur J. Taylor is a prominent member of the Methodist church, at Stanton, and is now serving as a trustee, and for many years before coming to Stanton he was superintendent of the Sunday school of the Methodist church at Greenville. Mr. Taylor is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Stanton, and is a member of the Montcalm Arbor of Gleaners in Sidney township, a chapter of which Mr. Taylor is a charter member.

R. ARTHUR CAROTHERS.

On another page in this volume, in connection with the sketch of Newton W. Newhouse, veteran editor of the *Stanton Clipper-Herald*, there is presented a narrative of the manner in which the newspaper with which Mr. Carothers has been so long connected, came to have its hyphenated name, and it will therefore not be necessary to go into further details in that regard, nor further to present the history of these two old papers, the *Herald* and the *Clipper*, in this county. Mr. Carothers, who is one of the best-known newspaper men in this part of the state, has been connected with the *Clipper*, with

the exception of a few years, since he was sixteen years of age and has been one of the publishers of the same since spring, 1913, at which time he formed his present partnership with Mr. Newhouse, who had been editor of the *Clipper* for years and who at that time consolidated it with the *Herald*, the office of which latter paper had about that time suffered a disastrous loss by fire.

R. Arthur Carothers was born in North Star township, Gratiot county, Michigan, January 28, 1876, son of James W. and Mary L. (Litle) Carothers, the former of whom was born in Franklin, Lenawee county, this state, and the latter in Canada. James W. Carothers, who died at his home in Stanton, this county, on April 14, 1915, was born on July 10, 1843, and was one of a family of six children, two sons and four daughters, all of whom have departed this life, the father dying when James was but four years of age. Before he was twenty-one years of age, James W. Carothers ran away from home and enlisted in Company A, Eleventh Michigan Cavalry, being enrolled on August 31, 1864, to serve for one year or during the continuance of the war, and was honorably discharged on June 16, 1865, during the meantime having endured many hardships, including incarceration in the Libby prison for about three months, during which time he nearly starved to death.

On December 30, 1871, James W. Carothers was united in marriage in Hillsdale county, Michigan, to Mary L. Litle, who was born in Canada on June 22, 1846, daughter of Ralph and Maranda (Purchase) Litle, natives of Canada and New York respectively, and early settlers in Hillsdale county, this state, who later moved to Gratiot county and still later to Stanton, this county, where both died, the former at the age of eighty and the latter at the age of eighty-six years. They were the parents of eight children, Samuel L., Mrs. Hulda Cortright, William L., Mrs. Harriet Fennel, Joseph H., Mary L., who married Mr. Carothers, Mrs. Roxana Miner, and John. The latter died in infancy. After residing in Saginaw and Gratiot counties a few years, Mr. Carothers and his family came to Montcalm county and located in Stanton, where he built a home, which he occupied until his death. He was a very active, hard-working man and was always busy. He stuck to his post as long as he was able to go. At different times, for nearly six years before his death, Mr. Carothers served as nightwatchman on the street for the city of Stanton and this service he kept up to within about a month of his death in the spring of 1915. The day before his death he called his wife and children to his bedside and requested them not to mourn. He was pre-

pared for death and went calmly and in a spirit of complete resignation. Besides his widow, who survives, at the age of sixty-nine years, Mr. Carothers left three sons, George H., R. Arthur and Charles H., all of Stanton.

Barton Carothers, father of James W., was born at Clarkson, New York, on March 29, 1811. He married Polly Carothers on January 1, 1840, at Rome, Lenawee county, Michigan. They resided on a homestead in that county until his death, which occurred on December 8, 1845. Polly Carothers was born at Lyons, Wayne county, New York, on December 13, 1815. Mr. and Mrs. Barton Carothers were the parents of the following children: Robert P., born on January 30, 1841, at Lenawee county; James W., July 10, 1843, at Lenawee county, and Ellin M., October 22, 1845, at Lenawee county. Polly Carothers was afterward married to James T. Bassett. To this union were born three daughters: Mary C. at Jefferson, Hillsdale county, Michigan, on October 15, 1850, and Mary Jane and Sarah Jane, twins, at Jefferson, on March 15, 1854.

Ralph Litle was born in Canada, January 31, 1811. He followed the cooper and shoemaking business for a number of years, but after his marriage to Maranda Purchase he moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, and engaged in farming for about twenty years. He then moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, where he purchased a farm, remaining on same until too old to work the land. Mr. Litle and wife then came to Stanton to reside with their daughter, Mrs. James W. Carothers. Mr. Litle's parents, Joseph and Jane (Laughton) Litle, were born in England and Scotland, respectively. They had two sons and five daughters. Maranda (Purchase) Litle was the daughter of Samuel and Huldah (Parshal) Purchase and was born at Phelpstown, New York, December 12, 1816. She had five brothers and one sister. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Litle are: Samuel L., William L., Huldah J., Joseph H., Harriet A., Mary L., Roxana and John. The latter died in infancy, but the remaining sons and daughters married and raised families; twenty children being born in the seven families, twelve of whom are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Litle both died at the home of their daughter, Mrs. J. W. Carothers, in Stanton. He departed this life on January 23, 1892, at the age of eighty years, eleven months and twenty-three days. She passed away on September 22, 1901, at the advanced age of eighty-five years, nine months and ten days.

R. Arthur Carothers was four years of age when his parents moved to Stanton and he has lived in that city ever since. He attended the public schools in his early youth and at the age of sixteen began to learn the print-

er's trade in the office of the *Stanton Clipper*, with which paper he has been actively connected for fifteen years. Upon the consolidation of the *Clipper* and the *Herald*, under the name of the *Clipper-Herald*, on April 1, 1913, he became a full partner with Mr. Newhouse in the publication of the paper and has been thus engaged since that time.

On June 21, 1900, R. Arthur Carothers was united in marriage to Maude B. White, who was born in Genesee county, this state, on October 8, 1882, daughter of the Rev. John N. and Ella (Wilder) White, the former of whom also was born in Genesee county and the latter in Carlton, New York, born June 29, 1850, but who had lived in Genesee county nearly all her life. Rev. John N. White was the son of Alpheus, born in Oakland county, Michigan, and Samantha (Root) White, she a native of New York state, and pioneers of Genesee county, this state, where the former died at an advanced age, his widow still living, at the age of ninety years, making her home in Stanton. Later, on November 25, 1894, Mrs. Samantha (Root) White was married to William H. Stevens, an old pioneer of Montcalm county and for forty years a resident of Stanton. He was born in the state of Connecticut on October 18, 1823, and came to Michigan with his parents when a small boy, locating near Salem, Washtenaw county. He afterward moved to Bushnell township, this county and in 1869 located in Stanton. Mr. Stevens engaged in the saw-mill and grist-mill business here for a number of years and also built a four-story brick building on Main street. Here he carried on a hotel and opera house business for years. In many respects he was a very peculiar man, although he had some extra good qualities, a hard worker and had succeeded in amassing considerable property, although spending a snug fortune in the courts of Montcalm county. Mr. Stevens died April 1, 1909, and was laid to rest in the Bushnell cemetery, beside the remains of his first wife, who was a sister of his late widow. She and her first husband were the parents of seven children, Mina E., Lemuel E., John N., Mary E., Nathan L., Huldah E. and James D. The Rev. John N. White was a promising young minister of the Free Methodist church, in which communion he was a presiding elder, but whose promising career was cut short by death in 1892, on June 12, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, he being then but thirty-eight years of age. His wife died on January 2, 1888, at the age of thirty-eight. An infant of six weeks also died at same time. Elliott S. Wilder was born at Fairhaven, Vermont, April 21, 1806. His wife's maiden name was Sylvia Gilkey, born at Lock, Cayuga county, New York, on August 1, 1814. They were married 1832. The maternal grandparents of Mrs.

Carothers were Elliott S. Wilder and wife, natives of New York state and early settlers at Atlas, Michigan. Among their children was one son, Hamilton Wilder, who died in Andersonville prison during the Civil War, their other children having been Lina, Eva, Helen, Sarah, Wilbur and Ella. The remaining son, Wilbur, is at present stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia, as Colonel Wilder.

To R. Arthur and Maude B. (White) Carothers two children have been born, Marjorie C. and Glen C. Mr. and Mrs. Carothers are interested in the social activities of Stanton and are held in high regard by their many friends thereabout. Mr. Carothers is a Republican and for three years served the public as city clerk of Stanton, for one year as alderman, and for four years served as supervisor. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Stanton and is attached to the encampment of that order. Mrs. Carothers was left an orphan at the age of ten years and was raised by her grandmother, Mrs. William H. Stevens, coming to Stanton from Genesee county with her grandmother when she was eleven years of age, and has made Stanton her home ever since. Mrs. Carothers is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah, the woman's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows, and is a regular attendant of the Methodist church in the city where she lives.

CLAIR W. WEEKS.

Clair W. Weeks, a well-known business man, who is the proprietor and operator of the Weeks monument works, of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born near Belding, Michigan, on August 23, 1878, a son of Leonard H. and Elizabeth (Slawson) Weeks, the former born at Lowell, Kent county, Michigan, the latter near Watkins Glenn, in Tompkins county, New York, from which place she moved with her parents, to Wisconsin, thence to Missouri, and from there to near Cooks Corners, Kent county, Michigan.

Following their marriage, Leonard H. and Elizabeth Weeks lived on a farm in Ionia county, until 1891, when they moved to Belding, Ionia county, where the elder Weeks, is now a stock buyer. Leonard H. and Elizabeth Weeks are the parents of three children: Guy, of Saginaw, Michigan, who is a traveling engineer for the Pere Marquette Railway Company; Ora, who is the wife of L. M. Sagendorf, a hardware merchant of Greenville, and Clair W.

Clair W. Weeks was educated in the common schools of Ionia county and at the Belding high school, after which he learned the trade of a stone-cutter. At this occupation, Mr. Weeks continued at his trade at Gratiot, until 1910, when he came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and established his monument business at this place, erecting a building for his work, and where he now is successfully engaged in the conduct of his business.

Clair W. Weeks was married to Jessie Herrick, who was born at Tru-fant, Michigan, and to this marriage was born one child, Jessie, the mother dying at the time of the birth of this child.

On December 27, 1905, Mr. Weeks was married to Mary E. Shell, who was born in Alpena county, Michigan, and to this marriage have been born four children: Lawrence, Virene, Lucy and Helen. Mrs. Weeks is a communicant of the Catholic church.

Clair W. Weeks is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, and is a member of Lodge No. 447, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics, Mr. Weeks is independent of party.

JOHN LEWIS.

John Lewis, vice-president and general manager of the Gibson Refrigerator Company, and a citizen prominent in the industrial activities of Greenville, Montcalm county, was born in Cheltenham, England, on April 19, 1854, and lived in his native country until after the completion of his education at Northampton, England, and then, in October, 1873, after his marriage, came to America.

On reaching America, John Lewis made his home at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for two years and in 1875 went to Chicago, where, one year later, he engaged in the refrigerator business. In 1884 Mr. Lewis moved to Belding, Ionia county, Michigan, and became associated with the Belding Manufacturing Company, with whom he remained until 1892, when he came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and together with E. & C. T. Ranney, organized the Ranney Refrigerator Company. In November, 1909, Mr. Lewis severed his connection with the Ranney Manufacturing Company and organized the Gibson Refrigerator Company, a corporation of which he is vice-president and general manager. As a manufacturer of refrigerators, Mr. Lewis is one of the best known men of the country and it is said that he is the oldest active refrigerator manufacturer in the United States.

John Lewis, while a citizen of England, was married to Lucy M. Bronson, a daughter of John Bronson, who in 1856, was the manager of the Edward Malley Company, one of the largest department stores of New Haven, Connecticut. To the marriage of John and Lucy Lewis have been born seven children: J. Frank, of Baltimore; Dr. G. H. Lewis, a graduate of the University of Michigan, now practicing his profession at Cleveland, Ohio; Fred S., of Polsbo, Washington; Alan G., who is private secretary to Harry E. Converse, of Massachusetts; Willburn B., who is a graduate of Western Reserve University; Edna, who lives at home; and Gertrude, the wife of Dr. W. R. Lyman, of Massachusetts. John Lewis and his family are members of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Lewis is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, having served as master of the blue lodge, and is a member of Chapter No. 79, Royal Arch Masons. In politics, Mr. Lewis is independent of party.

BERT C. E. SILVER.

Bert C. E. Silver is head of the well-known Silver Family, a company of gifted musicians and public entertainers, known and welcomed in every town in Michigan for years past, long residents of Michigan, recently purchased house and theater property at Greenville, which will be their home in future, are proprietors of the Silver Family Park and theater at Crystal, and are prominently connected with the social and cultural activities of the town. Mr. Bert C. E. Silver is a native of New York, having been born in St. Lawrence county, that state, December 9, 1860, son of Dick and Eliza (Earl) Silver, prominent entertainers in their time, whose last days were spent in Traverse City. Mrs. Dick Silver is alive now and resides with her eldest son, Bert, at Greenville.

The veteran entertainer, Dick Silver, whose memory is cherished in this state, spent seventy years of his life on the stage, the greater part of which time he headed the organization, which is still being perpetuated, in the third generation, to which he gave the name of The Silver Family, a company of entertainers which enjoys the unique distinction of being an exclusively state-limited organization, being the only known show of its kind which does not given performances outside the state in which it has its organization, it having been the policy of Mr. Silver for years to restrict his territory to the state of Michigan. The Silver Family thus never giving entertainments

more than one hundred and fifty miles removed from Greenville and Crystal. Dick Silver was born in the town of Grotton, Vermont, in 1827, and grew up to the life of the stage quite naturally, for his father, a native of England, was a concert singer of note in his day, member of an old English family, the genealogy of which has been preserved back to the year 1600. Dick Silver was one of a family of nine sons and five daughters and in his early youth was sent to Boston to learn a trade, but instead followed the bent of his natural inclination and became a musician and for twenty years was connected with various musical companies traveling out of Boston. He then organized the Silver Brothers' Minstrels and went on tour on his own account, achieving a reputation as a public entertainer, and in 1859, in St. Lawrence county, New York, met and married Eliza Earl, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1840, her father, Samuel Earl, of direct English stock, his family also tracing back to the early part of the seventeenth century, having come to this country from Canada. Eliza (Earl) Silver also was an accomplished musician and was a competent and valuable helpmate to her gifted husband in his long life as a public entertainer and was a large factor in the success of the Silver Family. Their eldest son, Bert, the subject of this sketch, experienced his first view of an appreciative audience from the stage when he was five years of age, he having then been put on in a singing and dancing turn at St. Lawrence county fair, New York, and his life ever since has been devoted to the entertainment of the public. In 1866 the Silvers located at Durand, in Chippeway county, Wisconsin, and remained there until 1868, Dick Silver operating a concert company out of that place, covering Northwestern points, and afterward moved to EauClaire, in the same state, where Mr. Silver organized a company which he called the New York Circus, and which he conducted successfully for a period of four years, at the end of which time he took out a dramatic company and traveled for a year, wintering at Shellsburg, Iowa. The next spring he started out with a concert company and in the fall of 1873 turned in at Grand Rapids, this state, which he made his headquarters for a time, later moving the same to Sand Lake, in Kent county, out of which point the family traveled for a couple of years. The season of 1876 was spent by the Silver Family touring Ohio and at the end of that season the family returned to Michigan, which by that time was coming to seem more like home than anywhere else, and located at Crystal, this county, wintering at that point, where they remained for eight months, during which time Dick Silver was made a Mason by the lodge at Crystal. In 1877 the Silver Family toured northern Michigan, running out of Traverse City, which

latter point Dick Silver thenceforward made his headquarters and there he spent his last days, having been a public entertainer for seventy years, the greater part of which time he headed his own company.

To Dick and Eliza (Earl) Silver five children were born, all sons, as follow: Bert C. E., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; G. Lote, proprietor of the Dreamland theater at Traverse City; James F., of Greenville, this county; Harry F., proprietor of a theater at Cadillac, this state, and Glenn C., who was born at Crystal, in this county, in 1876, now engaged in the livery business at Traverse City.

Bert C. E. Silver literally grew up to the life of the stage and remained with his father's company until 1889, in which year he engaged in the mercantile business at Chicago, at the same time occupying a place in one of the leading orchestras in that city, and was thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Traverse City and took his place in the organization of the Silver Brothers' Company, which operated as a tent show during the summers and as bell-ringers and concert entertainers during the winters and was thus engaged for six years, touring principally throughout northern Michigan. In 1899 Bert Silver discontinued his connection with the Silver Brothers Company and organized the Silver Family Swiss Bell-Ringers and Concert Company, with headquarters at Standish, this state, and thus continued for five years, operating a tent show during the summers and attached to a lyceum circuit during the winters.

In 1904, Mr. Silver bought the Grove property, including Grove Park, at Crystal, this county, renaming the same the Silver Family Park, and opened it up as an amusement enterprise, at the same time making his headquarters at Greenville, where he now owns valuable town property, besides the theater at that place, and where his family maintains its established home. The Silver Family's route in the entertainment line is restricted, by choice, to the state of Michigan, it being Mr. Silver's boast that his attraction is the only one of its kind that is an exclusive state attraction. The Family uses automobile trucks for transportation, running a road show for the season of sixteen weeks during the summers and has planned for two companies to take the road in the season of 1916.

On March 17, 1883, Bert C. E. Silver was united in marriage to Ellen L. Vescelius, daughter of E. N. and Lottie Vecelius, of Tecumseh, this state, of English and German descent, respectively, and to this union seven children have been born, all of whom are connected with the Silver family,

entertainers, namely: Frances, who married Sandy Copeland, of Crystal, clarinet player; G. Earl, who married Irene Felton, of Crystal, who also is connected with the Silver Family; Laura, solo cornetist; Pearl, trap-drummer; Ruby, piano and French-horn, and Dick, bass horn. Kittie died at the age of three years. All of these Silver children are accomplished musicians and are all graduates of the Michigan high schools, Dick having graduated with the class of May, 1915, at Crystal. During their limited time at home, the Silvers take an active part in the social life of their home town and all are held in the highest esteem throughout this section.

Mr. Silver is a member of Mt. Gilead Lodge No. 285, Free and Accepted Masons, at Crystal, and to which his son, G. Earl, is also attached, the latter being a past master of the lodge. Mrs. Silver and her daughters are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and all take an earnest interest in local Masonic affairs. Mr. Silver also is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and G. Earl Silver is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, at Greenville. Mr. Silver is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has never been included in the office-seeking class.

ALBERT ALLEN.

Albert Allen, a well-known retired farmer, owner of a fine farm of one hundred acres in section 26 of Eureka township, this county, now living in comfort in a delightful home in Greenville, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Orion township, Oakland county, this state, November 27, 1847, son of Harvey and Malinda (Jackson) Allen, both natives of Onondaga county, New York, who later became well-known residents of this county, where both spent their last days.

Harvey Allen was born on March 12, 1802, and grew up on a farm in Onondaga county, New York. In 1822 he married Malinda Jackson, who had grown up in the same neighborhood with him and they continued to live there until the early 'thirties, when, with their three children, they came to Michigan, settling on an eighty-acre farm in Orion township, where they made their home until 1851 and where four more children were born to them. In the year just named, Harvey Allen sold his farm and he and his family moved from Oakland county to Montcalm county. He bought eighty acres in section 24, township 10, north, range 8, west, which he presently sold and bought the farm in section 26 of the same township,

which his youngest son, the immediate subject of this sketch now owns, and there he and his wife spent their last days. Mrs. Allen died in 1884 and Harvey Allen died in 1890, at the age of eighty-eight years, long having been one of the best-known and most highly respected residents of that section. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom seven grew to maturity and of whom but two are now living, the two last born, Sallie Ann, wife of Jacob Osman, of Ann Arbor, this state, and Albert, the subject of this sketch; the others having been Levi J., Francis W., Henry F., Esther F., who died unmarried, and Joseph J.

Albert Allen was about five years old when his parents moved from Oakland county to this county and he grew up on the home farm in Eureka township, receiving his education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, remaining on the farm as he grew to manhood and eventually assumed charge of the same for his aged father. He bought the place in 1872, having in the meantime married, and made his home there until the time of his wife's death in 1909, after which he left the farm and moved to Greenville. His wife was Jane Wilbur, daughter of George Wilbur, of Hillsdale, and to them were born four children, as follow: Wilma, wife of B. M. Noxon, of Greenville; Pearl, who married Effa Forsyth and lives in this county; Cora, who married B. M. Hall, of Manchester, and Hugh B., who married Julia Selsman and lives in Douglass township, this county.

On October 19, 1910, Albert Allen was married, secondly, to Mrs. Emma (Cusick) Kent, widow of William Kent and daughter of Charles H. and Sylvia (Hebard) Cusick, well-known residents of the neighboring county of Ionia. Charles H. Cusick was born in the city of Utica, New York, in 1836. As a young man he came to Michigan and settled in Lapeer county where in 1857, being twenty-one years of age, he bought a quarter of a section of land, presently married Sylvia Hebard, whose parents were pioneers of that section, and there made his home for fourteen years, and then he sold his place and bought a farm of eighty acres in Ottawa county, where he lived a short time and then gave up farming and moved to Grand Rapids, where he made his home for several years, later moving to Ionia county, where he bought a farm in Otisco township and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Charles H. Cusick died in 1900 and his widow died in 1909. They were the parents of seven children, of whom five are now living, as follow: Fred F., who lives in South Dakota; Emma, wife of Mr. Allen; Oscar, who lives in St. Anthony, Idaho; Addie, wife of Frank Motter, of Mackinac City, this state, and Claud, who lives in

Eugene, Oregon. Sarah, the firstborn of the above union, who married Bert Bowman, is but lately deceased.

Mrs. Allen is a member of the Methodist church and she and Mr. Allen are interested in all movements having as their object the promotion of the best interests of the community in which they live. Mr. Allen is a Republican and has served the public from time to time as justice of the peace, constable, drainage commissioner and in other useful ways, long having been regarded as a public-spirited citizen. He and his wife have many friends hereabout and are held in high esteem by all.

ORANGE S. ALMACK.

Orange S. Almack, who came to Michigan thirty-four years ago and has been a resident of Montcalm county since 1911, and who, since the latter year, has been a merchant in Sheridan, this county, doing an extensive business in the general merchandise line, was born in New Castle township, Coshocton county, Ohio, on July 24, 1853, son of Thomas H. and Arabella (Coplen) Almack, who moved from Ohio to Indiana in 1863, settling in Fulton county, whence they later moved to Whitley county, same state, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

George S. Almack was but ten years of age when his parents moved into Indiana and he was educated in the schools of that state. On August 10, 1876, at Warsaw, Indiana, he was united in marriage to Sarah E. Phillips, who was born near Pierceton, Kosciusko county, Indiana, on February 21, 1859, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Walker) Phillips, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, who were married in Ohio and later located in Kosciusko county, Indiana, where their last days were spent. Henry Phillips and wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom five are still living, George W., John P., Mary R., Lena M. and Sarah E., the latter of whom was the last born. To Mr. and Mrs. Almack three children have been born, Alice A., who married George Bean and lives in Allegan county, this state, and Gertrude M., who was graduated from the common schools of this county and from Parson's Business College at Kalamazoo, married Artie Feighner and lives at Sheridan, this county.

In 1911, Mr. Almack came to Montcalm county and in the latter year opened a store at Sheridan, and ever since has been very successfully engaged in business there. Mr. and Mrs. Almack are members of the

Christian church. They also are much interested in the work of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Mr. Almack being a member of Lacota Lodge No. 33, of that order, of which he is a past noble grand, and is also attached to the encampment of the same order, and Mrs. Almack is a member of the Sheridan lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah, the woman's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows, and is a past noble grand of that lodge and a member of the grand lodge of Michigan. Mr. Almack was one of the charter members of the lodge to which he is attached. He is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to politics, but the close application that he has ever given to his business affairs has prevented him from taking a very active part in campaign work. He is one of Sheridan's most enterprising and public-spirited citizens and is ever alert to advance any movement looking to the best interests of that thriving village. He is an excellent citizen and a good neighbor and is held in high regard throughout that community.

CHARLES W. FRENCH.

In banking circles hereabouts few names are better known than that of the gentleman whose name the reader notes above, Charles W. French, cashier of the State Savings Bank, of Stanton, this county, who has been connected with the banking business since he was nineteen years old and who has been prominently identified with the banking interests of Stanton since 1895.

Charles W. French was born in Willoughby, Ohio, on May 9, 1864, son of George W. and Margaret (Pelton) French, the former of whom was born at Rutland, Vermont, and the latter at Willoughby, Ohio. George W. French was the son of William French and wife, Vermonters, who died well along in years. William French was a harness-maker and he and his wife were the parents of the following children: Eliza M., George W., Emma, Paul, John W., Mary N., Henryette, William P., Horace, Samuel P., Acline, Emeline and Sarah N., all deceased.

When twelve years of age, George W. French left home to make his own way in the world. He went to New York City and thence to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in which latter city he learned the carpenter trade and while thus engaged helped to build the old Sweets hotel. Presently he went up Grand river to Muir, where for a time he was engaged in the clothing business, later going into the lumber business and for twenty-five



CHARLES W. FRENCH.

years operated a saw-mill at Muir, becoming one of the best-known lumbermen in that region. After middle life he was attracted to the South as a place of residence and went to Johnson City, Tennessee, where for a time he was engaged in the manufacture of plug tobacco, after which he returned to Muir, his established home, where, two years later, in 1896, he died at the age of sixty-seven years. During the Civil War, George W. French served as a soldier in the Union army for about five years. He enlisted as a private in the Tenth Michigan Cavalry; presently was promoted to quartermaster and was mustered out with the rank of captain. Captain French was a valiant soldier and participated in many hard-fought engagements, the division in which he served having been in the thick of several of the most important campaigns of the war. During his long residence at Muir, Captain French took an active part in civic affairs and for some time served as president of the village council. He also served as township trustee and in numerous other ways displayed his good citizenship and desire in every way to promote the growing enterprises of the place.

To the union of George W. French and Margaret Pelton five children were born, as follow: Margaret, who is the wife of George G. Brown, cashier of the Cadillac State Bank; Charles W., subject of the biographical sketch; Fannie, wife of William Y. Serrin, of Chicago; William, deceased, and Jennie, wife of L. G. Hollbrook, of Des Moines, Iowa. Mrs. French died in 1872, at the age of thirty-six years. Her parents, the Peltons, were natives of New York state and early settlers of Willoughby, Ohio, in the neighborhood of which they lived as farmers until old age. They were the parents of five children, Charles, John, Harriett, Jane and George. Mr. and Mrs. French originally were members of the Christian (Disciples) church, but later became Presbyterians and in this latter faith both died.

The boyhood of Charles W. French was spent at Muir, his early education having been received in the public schools at that place, which he supplemented by a course in a business college at Grand Rapids. In his youth, between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, he worked in his father's saw-mill, on the river and in the timber, after which he entered the bank of Webber, Just & Company as a bookkeeper. Following this initial service in the banking business, he worked in other banks for about two years, at the end of which time, in 1886, he was made cashier of the bank of Webber, Just & Company. He presently bought Mr. Just's interest in that bank, also that of P. M. Fox, the bank firm then becoming known as S. W. Webber & Company, and continued this connection until January 1, 1892,

at which time he organized the Oakland County Savings Bank, of Pontiac, Michigan, and served as cashier of that institution until June, 1895, at which time he came to this county and bought the bank of H. R. Wagner at Stanton, operating the same under the firm name of C. W. French & Company, Josiah E. Just being a partner in the enterprise. Following the death of Mr. Just, Mr. French for a time continued as sole proprietor. In September, 1901, Charles W. French organized the State Savings Bank of Stanton, with a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars, and has since that time been cashier of that concern. Associated with him in this institution are Fred R. Messenger, president; Benson L. Gaffield, vice-president, and William S. French, assistant cashier.

On April 4, 1888, Charles W. French was united in marriage to Belle Squires, who was born in Saline, Michigan, daughter of Samuel and Eleanor (Shekel) Squires, both of whom now are dead, and to this union one child has been born, a son, William S., a graduate of Ferris Institute, who is assistant cashier in the State Savings Bank at Stanton. Mrs. French has a brother, John Squires, and a sister, Kate. Mrs. French is a member of the Episcopal church. While Mr. French is not actively identified with any of the churches, he is friendly to all and a liberal contributor to worthy causes, as is his wife, and both take an active interest in local measures designed to advance the common good. They are prominent in the social life of their home city and have a wide acquaintance throughout the county, their friends holding them in the highest esteem. Mr. French is a Republican and a Mason, his membership in that ancient order being in Stanton Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Maçons. He is widely known in commercial and banking circles throughout this part of the state and possesses the entire confidence of the business community.

EARLE B. SLAWSON.

Earle B. Slawson, well-known dealer in coal and farm produce at Greenville, this county, is "native and to the manner born," for he first saw the light of day in that pleasant little city on June 17, 1875, son of George R. and Julia (Berridge) Slawson, the former a native of Cayuga county, New York, and the latter of this county.

George R. Slawson, for many years a prominent merchant of Greenville, came to Michigan with his parents when he was a small boy and was

reared on a farm in Oakfield township, Oakfield county, receiving his early education in the schools of Oakfield, after which he entered a school of pharmacy and became a graduate pharmacist. Thus equipped for the business to which he had devoted his life he settled at Greenville, in this county and entered into a partnership with C. C. Merritt, in the drug and jewelry business, and was thus engaged for five or six years, at the end of which time the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Slawson engaged in the drug business wholly on his own account and continued in that line until his death.

Not long after settling in Greenville, George R. Slawson was united in marriage to Julia Burridge, who was born in Fairplain township, this county, member of a pioneer family in that section, whose parents, both natives of England, who had come to America in their young days, met at Detroit and were married there, after which they came to this county, making the trip by ox-team, and established a permanent home in Fairplain township. Mrs. Slawson died in 1895 and Mr. Slawson survived her but a few years, his death occurring in 1898. To them two sons had been born, Earle B., the immediate subject of this sketch, and David Henry, a singer in grand opera, who for years has made his home in Paris.

Earle B. Slawson grew up in his native town and was graduated from the Greenville high school. Even from his earliest youth he had evinced the most intense interest in music and upon completing his course in the home schools, entered the Mehan College of Music, which he attended for five years, diligently pursuing his musical studies, and then entered upon his career as a professional musician. He followed this career until the death of his parents left his grandmother alone at Greenville and he returned to the home of his boyhood to make her declining days comfortable. Upon returning to Greenville he bought the coal and produce business of Miller & Miller at that place and ever since has been conducting that business, and is looked upon as one of the leading business men of the town, being held in high regard by his associates generally, and accounted one of the city's most energetic and public-spirited citizens.

On April 15, 1897, Earle B. Slawson was united in marriage to Nina Louise Gray, daughter of William and Emma (Rutter) Gray, of Romeo, Michigan, and to this union four children have been born, Seth, Donald, Gretchen and Barbara. Mr. and Mrs. Slawson are members of the Congregational church and take an active interest in the city's social and cultural activities, musical circles there being particularly favored by Mr. and Mrs. Slawson's interest along the lines of musical culture.

Mr. Slawson is a Republican and gives his intelligent attention to political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class. He is master of the Greenville lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, also a member of the local chapter of the Royal Arch Masons and of the commandery of the Knights Templar at Ionia, and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs, as well as in the affairs of the Knights of Pythias, of which order he is also a member.

LORENZO D. CURTIS.

Lorenzo D. Curtis, who is extensively engaged in the coal, wood and ice business at Edmore, this county, and the owner of a farm in the neighborhood of that village, is a native of the British dominion, having been born at Chatham, Canada, on September 21, 1851, son of John N. and Mary (Cunningham) Curtis, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Canada.

John N. Curtis was the son of John N. Curtis, also a native of Vermont, who moved to Detroit and thence to Canada and whose last days were spent in the home of his son in Barry county, this state. In the spring of 1853 the junior John N. Curtis moved with his family from Canada to this state, Lorenzo D., the subject of this sketch being then about a year and a half old, and settled in Barry county, where he spent the rest of his life, becoming a well-to-do farmer. He bought a quarter of a section of land there and developed his farm to a high state of cultivation. He was a Democrat and took an active interest in local political affairs and has served in several township offices. He was a Mason, a member of the lodge of that order at Hastings, and he and his wife were members of the Methodist church, he long having been a deacon in the church, and their children were reared in that faith. Mrs. Curtis died in 1895, at the age of sixty-four years. She was a native of Ireland and was a babe in arms when her parents came to this side of the Atlantic, locating in Canada, where she grew to womanhood, and where she married. John N. Curtis died in 1905, at the age of sixty-eight. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, namely: Lorenzo D., Martin, who lives at Big Rapids, this state; Horace, who lives at Woodland, in Barry county; Alfred, a resident of Edmore, this county; John, who lives at Vermontville, this state; Elmer, also of Vermontville; Henry, of Battle Creek, and Olive, deceased.

Lorenzo D. Curtis remained on the home farm in Barry county until

his marriage in 1873, he then being twenty-two years of age, after which he bought a small farm in that same county and there made his home until 1885, in which year he sold the farm and came to this county, settling at Edmore, where he opened a feed store, in connection with which he also bought and sold grain, and was thus engaged for two or three years, at the end of which time he opened a meat market and was engaged in that business for several years. He then took up the drayage line and was thus engaged until he embarked in his present business, a general dealer in coal, wood and ice, and has ever since been thus engaged, having built up a profitable business in that line. In the meantime Mr. Curtis had bought an eighty-acre farm in Home township, which he has improved in good shape, and twenty-one acres adjoining the village of Edmore, where he makes his home, being very pleasantly situated there. He also owns property of value in Edmore and is regarded as a substantial citizen.

In 1873, in Barry county, this state, Lorenzo D. Curtis was united in marriage to Catherine Elizabeth Paddock, who was born in Steuben county, New York, May 22, 1856, daughter of Lory and Catherine (Jordan) Paddock, the former of whom was born in New Jersey on March 8, 1816, and the latter, in New York state, April 9, 1816, daughter of Jesse and Anna (Wartz) Jordan, both natives of New York state. In 1865 the Paddocks left New York and came to Michigan, settling in Barry county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mr. Paddock dying in 1870 and his widow surviving until 1900. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom ten grew to maturity, but four of whom are now living, however, Lorenzo, who lives at Concord, this state; Mrs. Mary Buchanan, of Holland, this state; Hezekiah, of Woodland, and Mrs. Curtis, those deceased after maturity having been Eliza, Jessie, David, Lydia, Levi, and Phebe.

To Lorenzo D. and Catherine E. (Paddock) Curtis eleven children county, and the remainder in Edmore this county, as follow: Edward, have been born, the first five of whom were born at Woodland, in Barry born in 1874, who died at the age of two years; Bert, 1876, owns a meat market at Cadillac, this state, married Leona Clark and has four children, Harry, Neva, Maud and Fred; Henry, 1878, manager of the Standard Oil Company's wagons at Edmore, married Agnes Wilkins and has two children, Uula and J. D.; Fred, 1880, who operates the dray line at Edmore, married Edna Eldridge and has four children, Elsie, Charlotte, Alvin and Clyde; Mary, 1883, who died at the age of two years; Ollie, 1885, who died at the age of two years; Etta, 1887, who died at Edmore; Lera, 1888,

who was educated in the schools at Edmore, the normal schools at Ypsilanti and Big Rapids and at the Ferris Institute and is now in charge of the physical training department of the Kalamazoo high school; Leslie, 1890, now living at Ionia, this state, who married Ruth Mutterstock, who died leaving one child, Catherine, whereupon he married, secondly, Elsie Christiansen; Letha, 1891, who is still at home, and Glenn, 1898, also at home. Mrs. Curtis is a member of the Methodist church and takes an earnest interest in the general beneficences of that church. Mr. Curtis is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and Mrs. Curtis is a social member of the same order as well as of the Woman's Relief Corps, in the affairs of which she is warmly interested. The family is substantially situated and is held in high esteem throughout the community.

SIMON ANDERSON.

Simon Anderson, a well-known retired farmer of Montcalm county, who now is living in comfort in the pleasant little city of Sheridan, this county, is a native of the kingdom of Norway, where he was born on August 4, 1844, son of Aanon Aanonson and wife, also natives of that country, whose entire lives were spent there.

When he was twenty-eight years of age, in 1872, Simon Anderson was united in marriage to Mary Osulson and he and his bride at once started out to make a home for themselves in the great country across the water. They landed in Canada and after a stay of three months there, crossed the line into Detroit and thence to Ionia, this state, where for a time Mr. Anderson was employed on the maintenance force of the Pere Marquette railroad. On December 31, 1873, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson came to Montcalm county and settled at Sheridan, where for about three years Mr. Anderson worked in a saw-mill, after which he bought a farm which, in time, proved so profitable that he was enabled to retire from active labor, since which time he and his wife have been living in Sheridan, where they are held in high esteem by their many friends. They are members of the Lutheran church and take an active interest in church work. Mr. Anderson is a Republican, but is not a particularly active worker in political affairs. He is a substantial citizen of the county and enjoys the confidence and regard of all who know him.

WILLIAM H. LOVELY.

William H. Lovely, a retired lumberman and produce dealer of Howard City, was born in Ontario, August 15, 1847, the son of John and Catherine (Dunham) Lovely. Both John and Catherine Lovely were natives of New Brunswick and came from their native province to Ontario with their respective parents, John Lovely walking all the way. They located near Hamilton and here grew up and married, coming to Michigan some years later in the spring of 1865 and locating near Lowell in Ionia county. Here John Lovely followed farming until about seventy years of age, when he retired and he and his wife moved to Howard City, where they lived until their deaths, he passing away in December, 1893, and she on December 1, 1901. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the affairs of which they took a very active interest. Mr. Lovely was a Republican in politics and always an enthusiastic promoter of good government. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, James, a farmer in Ionia county; William H., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, the wife of Milton Page, a farmer of Ionia county, and J. W., a fruit grower in California.

William H. Lovely was reared and educated in Ontario and remained in that country until fifteen years of age, when he came to the United States, landing in Detroit with only ten cents in money. The day following his arrival he secured a position at shingle packing, being paid by the thousand, and followed this occupation during 1864. In the fall of that year, he went to Grand Rapids and from there to Big Rapids with a lumber crew, spending the winter in the woods. The following summer he worked on a farm near Lowell, and during the winter of 1865 and 1866 worked again in the woods, but in 1867 gave up his work in the timber and came to Howard City, where he has remained ever since. Some time after coming to Howard City, Mr. Lovely formed a partnership with R. H. O'Donald, which was known as the firm of Lovely & O'Donald, and dealt in lumber, grain and produce, continuing until the timber was exhausted, when the firm was dissolved. Mr. Lovely was then engaged in the grain and produce business until 1905, when he retired from active business. Mr. Lovely owns three hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land, part of which is in Montcalm county, part in Ionia and the remainder in Mecosta county.

In 1873 Mr. Lovely was married in Grand Rapids to Mary A. Van Navery, who was born in Ontario, where she was reared and educated.

To this union has been born one daughter, Minnie B., on April 9, 1875. She is a graduate of the Howard City high school and the Alma College at Alma, Michigan, and is now the wife of George F. Rowe, of Traverse City, Michigan.

Mr. Lovely is a charter member and one of the organizers of the Howard City lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, and is also a member of the chapter, Royal Arch Masons. In politics, Mr. Lovely is a Republican and has served as supervisor and treasurer of Reynolds township, and as president of the town board of Howard City.

A. NOAH RUSSELL.

A prominent hardware merchant and breeder of live stock of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, is A. Noah Russell, who was born in Warren county, New York, August 12, 1866, the son of Morris and Chlistia (Bramard) Russell. Morris Russell was a native of France and his wife of England, both having come to Montreal, where they grew up together. They were married at La Prairie and settled in Warren county, New York, where Morris Russell died in 1868. Although Mrs. Russell survived her husband many years, she never married again but died at the home of her son, A. Noah, in 1900. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are now living, Lewis, who is the owner of a mill in Lowell, Mississippi; C. W., who conducts a mill at Marinette, Wisconsin, and A. Noah, the subject of this sketch.

A. Noah Russell was reared in Sheridan, Michigan, and received his education in the public schools of that city, later attending the Ionia Business College. At the age of thirteen he started out for himself, working by the month until he was twenty-three, when he began clerking in a hardware store. In 1889 he engaged in business for himself and has continued so since that time. He now owns the building in which he has his store and also an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres. About six years ago, Mr. Russell began the breeding of Percheron horses and Holstein cattle, and now has some splendid animals. His herd of horses is headed by Robush R. No. 111344, and the mares in this herd are Bijou, No. 111343, Madam DuBarry, No. 45835, Roma, No. 24942 and Jesse, No. 66182. His herd of cattle is headed by Sherlock Lilith and Pauline Count, third, No.

106645. He has exhibited his herds at various fairs and twice has been the winner of prizes on them.

Mr. Russell was married to Anna B. Hicks, of Greenville, Michigan, who was born in Canada in June, 1873. To this union have been born four children, Hazel, Sol Smith, Marie and Louise.

Politically, Mr. Russell is a Republican, but has never been an office seeker. Fraternally, he is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge, No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and Lodge 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Ionia. Mr. Russell is what may be correctly termed a self-made man, having started with practically nothing and accumulated by his own efforts all which he now possesses. He is well known throughout Montcalm county and has a large number of friends, by whom he is held in the highest esteem.

SID V. BULLOCK.

Sid V. Bullock, a successful business man and citizen who has been prominent in the public affairs and official life of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in New York state, on September 25, 1859, the son of John W. and Harriett (Underhill) Bullock, both of whom were born, reared and married in New York state.

John W. Bullock, who was a descendant of a well-known Vermont family, after his marriage moved to Rockford, Kent county, Michigan, where he lived for a short time and then came to Howard City, Montcalm county, and, in this locality, engaged in his occupation as a wagon-maker for three years. Later, in partnership with Solomon Lisk, the elder Bullock opened a new and larger shop at Howard City, which they operated for a number of years, after which John W. Bullock retired, and lived quietly until his death in 1907. Harriett, the wife of John W. Bullock, died in 1905. They were the parents of two children: Sid V., of this sketch, and Emma, of Sand Lake, Michigan, who is the widow of Henry Blackburn.

Sid V. Bullock received his early education in the common schools of Howard City, after which he completed the course of study at the Howard City high school and then became clerk in the local postoffice, at the same time being a salesman and student of pharmacy in the drug store of A. R. Mather. After four years, Mr. Bullock became a druggist for John B. Quick, with whom he remained about three years and then he entered the drug business for himself in partnership with J. R. Hathaway in the firm

known as Hathaway & Bullock, until a disastrous fire deprived them of their business. Mr. Bullock again associated himself with John B. Quick, where Sid V. Bullock was engaged for two years. Later, after being with Henry Henkle for three months, Mr. Bullock became identified with S. C. Scott, a Howard City business man, with whom he remained about three years and then went to the town of Trufant, where Mr. Bullock engaged in the drug business for five years, after which he returned to Howard City and opened a drug store, which he conducted until 1907, when the stock of W. F. Nagler was purchased by Mr. Bullock and H. M. Gibbs. This stock was divided, Mr. Bullock moving his share to his present location, where he owns his own building.

On February 19, 1882, Sid V. Bullock was married to Carrie Tyler, and to this marriage have been born two children: John, who is engaged in business with his father, and Sydney, the wife of Blaine Henkle, of Howard City.

Sid V. Bullock has taken an important place in the official life of Howard City, having served as postmaster from 1903 to 1912, and he has served as town clerk, he also having been a valued member of the village board for some years. In politics, Mr. Bullock is a Republican.

Fraternally, Mr. Bullock is a member of Howard City Lodge, No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, a member of Howard City Lodge, No. 260, Knights of Pythias, and a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America. Sid V. Bullock is one of the highly respected and esteemed citizens of Howard City, his part in the business life of this community having been an important factor in local development.

ALLEN E. STEBBINS.

Postmaster Stebbins of Sheridan, this county, has been a resident of that place since 1904, in which year he located there as an undertaker and dealer in furniture and has done very well, being recognized widely as one of the leading merchants of the place, while his undertaking establishment is looked upon as one of the leading establishments of that sort in Montcalm county.

Allen E. Stebbins was born on a farm in Easton township, Ionia county, this state, on December 8, 1872, son of Albert B. and Emmaline C. (Jepson) Stebbins, the former of whom was born in the same county,

November 22, 1846, and the latter, in Bennington county, Vermont, February 7, 1844. Emmaline C. Jepson received an academic education in her home state and fitted herself for the high calling of a teacher, after which she came to Michigan, when she was twenty-one years of age, to teach in the schools of Ionia county, and it was there she was married. Her husband died on May 1, 1909, and she is still living at her home in Ionia county, enjoying many evidences of the high regard in which she is held throughout that community. Albert B. Stebbins and wife were the parents of four children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Allen E., the subject of this sketch; Runette M., wife of George Hulliberger, who lives in Ionia county, and Belle, widow of Frank Thomas, who lives in Ionia.

Reared on the paternal farm in Ionia county, Allen E. Stebbins received his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood and in Saranac high school. As a young man he learned the undertaking business, which he followed for a time, after which he returned to farming and was thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time he sold his farm, took a course in the Barnes School of Embalming and in 1904 located at Sheridan, this county, where he opened a modern undertaking establishment, in connection with which he opened a first-class furniture store, in both departments of which he has been quite successful, his store being looked upon as one of the best equipped in Sheridan, while he is regarded as one of the best funeral directors in this part of the state. In 1913 Mr. Stebbins received the appointment as postmaster of Sheridan and entered upon the duties of that important office on December 1 of that year and there is pretty general agreement that he is one of the most efficient postmasters Sheridan ever had.

In December, 1894, Allen E. Stebbins was united in marriage to Myrtle A. Ellison, who was born in Ionia county, this state, on April 3, 1875. Her father was a native of New York state and came to Michigan when he was two years of age with his parents, who settled in Ionia county. Her mother was born in Dillingham, England, and came to the United States with her mother when fifteen years of age, locating also in Ionia county. When quite a young girl, Myrtle Ellison was bereft of her mother by death and her father married again, she therefore having been reared by a stepmother, who reared her as tenderly as a mother could have done. To Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins seven children have been born, namely: Adelbert L., a graduate of the Ferris Commercial School, married Lucelle Holland and is assistant

postmaster at Sheridan; Hyland W., who also is a graduate of the above mentioned school, is assisting his father in the furniture store, and Gerald B., Leland W., Maxwell J., Blanche E. and Melbourne A. Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children have been reared in that faith, the family occupying a high position in the social and cultural life of the Sheridan neighborhood.

Mr. Stebbins is a Democrat and ever since coming to Montcalm county has given his earnest attention to the politics of the county. He is particularly interested in local school affairs and is now serving the public as president of the Sheridan school board. As postmaster, he is administering the affairs of that office with the same care which marks the management of his own private business and is looked upon as one of the substantial men of the county. His fraternal affiliations are with Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and with the Sheridan tent of the Knights of the Maccabees, in both of which orders he is held in high esteem.

BERT C. CRAWFORD.

Bert C. Crawford, cashier of the Bank of Sheridan, was born in Montcalm county, Michigan, August 8, 1874, the son of Jacob and Louisa (Slight) Crawford. Jacob Crawford was a native of Pennsylvania and his wife of Ohio. After their marriage, they came to Michigan, settling in Montcalm county southwest of Greenville. In 1876 they came to Sheridan, where they farmed and Mr. Crawford worked as a teamster. He died in 1899 and his wife four years later in 1903. They were the parents of seven children, five boys and two girls, six of whom are now living, Alonzo, William, Harry, Oliver, Bert C. and Lippie M., the wife of J. E. McMullen.

Bert C. Crawford was reared in the village of Sheridan and attended the public schools, later working for some time on a farm. For sixteen years he was assistant postmaster of Sheridan, filling this office with entire satisfaction, which is proved by the long term he served. In March, 1914, he was appointed assistant cashier of the Bank of Sheridan and has been connected with this institution since that time.

On May 30, 1903, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage to Anna M. Courter, the daughter of J. Watson Courter, whose life history is given elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Crawford is a graduate of the high school and also attended school at Stanton, Michigan.

Mr. Crawford owns a small farm of twenty acres two miles north of Sheridan, which he has purchased through his own efforts. Politically, he is a Republican, and has been clerk of the village of Sheridan for about twelve years. Fraternally, Mr. Crawford is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has filled all of the chairs except that of master. He also holds his membership in the Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Crawford has lived in Montcalm county all of his life and has a host of friends, by whom he is well liked and highly respected.

J. H. PROUT.

J. H. Prout, leading business man and prominent citizen of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, on September 8, 1864, a son of T. C. and Susanna (Martin) Prout, natives of Plymouth, England and Ontario, Canada, respectively.

T. C. Prout came to America, when he was fifteen years of age, and after landing at Toronto, Canada, he engaged in general work for some time and then he engaged in brass fitting and in the plumbing trade, for a short time. Later, T. C. Prout went to a place known as Hogs Hollow and there became a teamster, hauling flour from the city of Toronto, after which he became a farm helper on the farm of his former employer, a place where the elder Prout was employed as a plowman for some time, afterwards engaging in the raising of farm products, his success in this line having won for him a first prize at the Toronto exposition.

Some time later, T. C. Prout learned the millering trade after which he went to Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, about the year 1862, and after a short time there, during which time he married Susanna Martin, Mr. Prout moved to Nottaway, where he became head miller and where he was engaged for seven years. About this time, Susanna, the wife of T. C. Prout having died, Mr. Prout moved to Wauseon, Ohio, and followed his trade as a miller for some time and then he came to Greenville, Montcalm county, where he was engaged in the operating of the old Greenville mills, until about the year 1874, when T. C. Prout together with a Mr. Simmons came to Howard City, and started the first mills of the community, the grinding process of these mills being done by stones. After five or six years in partnership with Mr. Simmons, the latter went to England, where he remained for about two years and then returned to Howard City and pur-

chased the interest of Mr. Prout, who at this time went to Big Rapids, where he purchased the Mecosta mills, which he operated a short time and then went to Coral, Michigan, where he operated a small mill for about three years, after which he went to England. He later returned to Howard City, and purchased a mill, which he operated until 1882, when it was destroyed by fire. At this time the elder Prout entered the mercantile business at Mancelona, Michigan, being in business at that place until 1886, he returned to Howard City and built a modern and well-equipped mill, which he operated for the remainder of his days, dying in 1894.

After the death of his first wife, T. C. Prout was married about 1875 to Anna Andrews, of Wauseon, Ohio, and she now lives at Howard City. To the marriage of T. C. and Susanna Prout were born four children, J. H. and Ada, who survive, and two children who died in infancy. T. C. and Anna (Andrews) Prout were the parents of two children, both of whom died in infancy.

J. H. Prout was educated in the common schools of his community, and lived at home until he was eighteen years of age when he went to Greenville, where he engaged in the milling trade, having learned the business with his father. After some time as a miller, J. H. Prout went to Saginaw, Michigan, with Ira C. Alger, a milling engineer, and after a short time in that region returned to Howard City, and there engaged in the milling business with his father, which, after the death of the elder Prout, J. H. Prout secured and which he has since operated in a most efficient and successful manner, for more than twenty years.

In July, 1892, J. H. Prout was married to Hattie Van Ness, a daughter of John and Emma Van Ness. To this marriage was born one son, who died in infancy. Hattie, the wife of J. H. Prout, died in July, 1894.

J. H. Prout was married in 1898 to Ada Ferguson, who was born in Australia, a daughter of George and Sarah Ferguson, the former of whom was a gold-miner of that country. Mrs. Prout, before her marriage was a school teacher, she having been a preceptress of many schools in several localities.

J. H. Prout is prominent in the official life of Howard City, Montcalm county, he having been a member of the school board for the past six years, and he has served as president of the village for three years and as a member of the village council for six years. In politics, Mr. Prout is an ardent Republican. He is a member of Howard City Lodge, No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and a member of the Grand Rapids consistory

and Shrine. Mr. Prout is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, a Forester and a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, at Howard City.

FRED J. CHAMBERLIN.

Fred J. Chamberlin, the son of Newton and Serepta (Beals) Chamberlin was born on January 25, 1868, at Paw Paw, Van Buren county, Michigan. Newton Chamberlin was a native of New York state and came with his parents to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where they settled on a farm in 1836. They were among the early pioneers and suffered the hardships incident to those times in this region.

Newton Chamberlin remained in Kalamazoo county until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he went to Paw Paw where he was engaged in farming for a number of years. Later he engaged in the produce business at Decatur, Michigan, until his death in 1893.

Serepta (Beals) Chamberlin, was born in Vermont and came with her parents to Paw Paw township, Van Buren county, Michigan, where they located on a farm. Mrs. Chamberlin died in 1910.

Fred J. Chamberlin was but a baby when his parents moved to Decatur and here he grew to manhood and received his elementary education. In 1889 he graduated in pharmacy at Ann Arbor and the next year engaged in the drug business at Battle Creek, where he remained for the next ten years. In 1901 he came to Carson City where he bought a drug store and where he is still engaged in the drug business. He handles the Rexall Remedies, being a stockholder in the company.

For some ten years he has been the manager of the Union Telephone Company and the exchange is run in connection with the store.

Mr. Chamberlin was married in 1903 to Lillie M. Ainesley, who was a native of Ohio, but came to Michigan with her parents when but a babe. Her life since that time has been spent in Carson City.

Fraternally, Mr. Chamberlin belongs to the Masonic Order, the Knights of Pythias and the Maccabees.

He has a pleasing personality and is an exceptionally good business man. His progressive spirit and business qualities have been recognized by the people of his home town and as a result he has served them as a member on the council.

LUCIUS H. GIBBS.

In the memorial literature of Montcalm county no name deserves more distinctive mention than that of the late Lucius H. Gibbs, who for years was head of the well-known milling firm of J. H. Gibbs & Son at Edmore, this county, and an active participant in all movements designed to advance the general interest, not only of that section, but of the county at large, whose death on February 6, 1913, was regarded as a distinct loss to the whole community.

The late Lucius H. Gibbs was born at Burlington, Vermont, on August 16, 1859, son of Josiah H. and Amelia E. (Brooks) Gibbs, the former of whom was born at Westport in that same state, July 26, 1837, son of David and Ruby (Farnsworth) Gibbs, the former of whom, born in Massachusetts in 1800, son of Solomon Gibbs, a hotel keeper, died in 1867, and the latter, born at Fairfax, Franklin county, Vermont, daughter of Josiah Farnsworth, a farmer, died in 1855. David Gibbs and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom Josiah was the fourth in order of birth. On January 31, 1858, Josiah Gibbs was united in marriage to Amelia E. Brooks, who was united in marriage to Amelia E. Brooks, who was born at Leroy, Genesee county, New York, daughter of Lucius and Celia (Newcomb) Brooks, both natives of the Empire state. Lucius Brooks was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, and some time after his marriage emigrated with his family to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, whence, in 1850, he migrated to Michigan and became one of the pioneers of Kent county, where his death occurred on February 1, 1891, he long having been regarded as one of the substantial residents of that county. His daughter, Amelia, who was born on February 2, 1842, was about eight years of age when she came to Michigan with her parents, the trip from Ohio being made in a wagon, and she grew to womanhood in Kent county. It was during a visit back to her native home in the East that she married Josiah Gibbs, in 1858. In 1862 Josiah Gibbs and family came to Michigan, settling in Kent county, in the neighborhood of the home of Mrs. Gibb's parents, and there they lived until 1871, in which year they came to Montcalm county, locating at Greenville, later moving to Cedar Springs and still later to Edmore, where Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs are still living, having a beautiful home there and enjoying many evidences of the high regard in which they are held by the entire community. For years, until the time of his practical retirement from the active labors, Josiah Gibbs was regarded as one of the most energetic and



LUCIUS H. GIBBS.

influential men in his community, and the great milling business at Edmore, which is still doing business under the firm style of J. H. Gibbs & Son, being now under the management of his grandson, Jay H. Gibbs, is one of the monuments to his enterprise. Mr. Gibbs is also the owner of the electric light and power plant at Edmore, which also is now being managed by his grandson, and is besides the owner of valuable real estate in Edmore and farm land in the vicinity of the village, being looked upon as one of the most substantial citizens of Montcalm county. Josiah Gibbs is a Republican and has served as delegate to various conventions; has also served as village trustee and as village president. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs. To him and his wife three children were born, Lucius H., Nellie L. and Mrs. Carrie E. Roller, the latter of whom is now the only survivor.

Lucius H. Gibbs, eldest child and only son of Josiah and Amelia E. (Brooks) Gibbs, was three years of age when his parents came to Michigan, and his early education was received in the district schools in Kent county, this being supplemented by a course in the schools of Greenville. When his father started the shingle mill at Cedar Springs, Lucius H. Gibbs was but a boy, but he spent much time about the mill and gradually became his father's "right-hand man" about the mill. When the elder Gibbs later started his shingle mill in the Edmore neighborhood, Lucius H. Gibbs became foreman of the same and so continued until the mill was closed in February, 1889, the available timber thereabout having then become practically exhausted. The next year the father and son, established their flour-mill at Edmore, under the firm style of J. H. Gibbs & Son, and during the later years of his life, Lucius H. Gibbs was practically manager of the same, his father maintaining merely a general interest in the concern. Lucius H. Gibbs was long one of the most active business men in that part of the county and took a general interest in all movements calculated to promote the prosperity of Edmore and vicinity. He was one of the original shareholders in the Robinson Opera House and a director in the company, besides being financially interested in other neighborhood enterprises. He was an active Republican and a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges, being a member of the council, the chapter and the commandery of the former order. Mr. Gibbs was a fine, good-natured, jovial man; a firm believer in the adage that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy;" an ardent sportsman, much given to hunting and fishing, and found pleasure in all neighborhood social gatherings, being one of the most popular citizens

of that community, his death in 1913 being widely mourned throughout the countryside. Mr. Gibbs had served as village president of Edmore for ten or eleven terms and during his administration many improvements were made in the place, the village at the same time being kept free from debt, even under a reduced tax levy, an instance of the fine executive powers of Mr. Gibbs.

-- In 1878 Lucius M. Gibbs was united in marriage to Julia Hanscom, who was born in the state of Maine and who came to Michigan with her parents when a small girl and grew to womanhood in Nelson township, Kent county, in the possession of estimable qualities of mind and heart, and to this union two children, a son and a daughter, Grace and Jay H., were born, both of whom, with their widowed mother, survive. Jay H. Gibbs, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, is now in active charge of the extensive Gibbs interests in and about Edmore and is regarded as one of the most active young business men in Montcalm county.

WILLIAM H. COLLINS.

William H. Collins, leading merchant and a prominent citizen of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Ionia county, this state, on November 15, 1865, a son of John and Mary (Stark) Collins, to whom were born five children, of whom William H., of this sketch, is the youngest.

William H. Collins was reared on the home farm, and educated in the schools of Ionia county, after which he worked as a farmer on the home farm, until at twenty years of age, he came to Howard City, Montcalm county, and was employed as a salesman by his brothers, John C. and J. A. Collins, merchants of Howard City. After some time, William H. Collins purchased the interest of John C. Collins in the store, being the proprietor and manager of this successfully-conducted mercantile house, up to the present time.

During the year 1890, William H. Collins was married to Alma Merrill, a native of Mecosta county, and to this marriage has been born one daughter, June F., who after graduating from the Howard City high school, was a student at the State Normal School of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and now is a kindergarten teacher at Lapeer, Michigan. Miss June Collins also is well known as a musician and as a teacher of music in the community of her residence and activity.

Fraternally, William H. Collins is a member of Howard City Lodge, No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and he is a member of Howard City Lodge, No. 260, Knights of Pythias, Mr. Collins being a charter member of the latter organization.

Politically, Mr. Collins is a Republican, and although he has taken no especial part in the political or official life of the township or county, he is known as a man who supports good candidates for office and is known as a citizen willing to lend of his time and efforts for the advancement of political conditions in the community.

FRANCIS S. CASWELL.

Francis S. Caswell, the son of Sheldon and Mary P. (Fisher) Caswell, was born on June 3, 1873, at Carson City, Michigan, where he grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools of that place.

Sheldon H. Caswell was born in Cleveland, New York, on February 15, 1846, and his wife was born at Delhi on March 23, 1846. They were married in their native state and came to Portland, Michigan, in 1869, where they remained until November, 1872, when they came to Carson City. Here Mr. Caswell engaged in the business of moving buildings for some years, after which he became established in the furniture and undertaking business. In December, 1895, he sold the place to his son, Francis S., who has continued the business since that time.

The elder Mr. Caswell was in business for a quarter of a century, and at the time he came to Carson City, much excitement was caused by the rumor of a railroad. The grade was made, but this road was not constructed, and the town had no road at all for some fifteen years. Mr. Caswell was thoroughly identified with the new village and served for ten years on the school board. After selling his business he removed to New York, where he lived for thirteen years taking up his residence in Los Angeles, California.

Francis S. Caswell began his business life at an early age, having conducted a news-stand when fifteen years old and at the age of eighteen, had charge of a branch store for his father at Sumner, until the store was discontinued, at which time he was with his father in the home store until he became the owner of the business.

In 1912, Mr. Caswell erected the finest business block in Carson City,

the building being of stone and white brick, and represents fifteen years of thought and planning. The building is one hundred and ten feet long, thirty-four feet frontage and forty-two feet high, with large show windows giving most excellent light. The lower and mezzanine floors are devoted to the display of the large stock of furniture, while the upper floor is used as a theater. On the second floor below the theater are two suites of offices. Mr. Caswell carries a large and exclusive stock of furniture, rugs, pianos, sewing machines and undertaking supplies. The stock is larger and of a higher grade, than one would expect to find in towns the size of Carson City.

Mr. Caswell was married on June 21, 1894, to Emma L. Rice, of St. Johns, Michigan, the daughter of Orrin R. and Lucy B. (Brown) Rice. Her father lived the greater part of his life at St. Johns, where he was engaged in farming. Since the death of his wife on October 4, 1910, he has spent the greater part of his time with his daughter at Carson City. Mr. and Mrs. Caswell are the parents of four children: Queenie E., Lucile M., Francis E. and Dorothy.

Fraternally, Mr. Caswell is a member of the Masonic order and was master of the lodge for three years, during which time the membership was doubled.

JOHN W. HALLETT.

Among the citizens who have been successful as business men and who have taken an important place in the public affairs and official life of Carson City, Montcalm county, is John W. Hallett, who was born on April 5, 1845, in Cayuga county, New York, the son of Isaiah and Isabelle (West) Hallett, the former born in Monroe county, New York, the latter in London, England, where she lived until after the death of her mother and then came with her father to America, the father dying about one year after his arrival in America.

Isaiah Hallett was educated in the public schools of his native county, after which he lived at home until 1849, when he started for the gold-fields of California, Isaiah Hallett making the voyage by boat around Cape Horn. After some time as a gold-digger in California, the elder Hallett died, survived by his wife and three children, who remained at the home place in Cayuga county, New York.

After the completion of his education in the common schools of

Cayuga county, New York, and at a business college of his locality, John W. Hallett worked on a farm for some time and then, in June, 1864, he enlisted in Battery A, Third New York Light Artillery, with which he served through the Civil War. Following his discharge from military service, John W. Hallett returned to farm life, following this line of work until about the year 1873, when he came to Carson City, Montcalm county, and engaged for the greater part of the time in the lumber activities of this region. Later, Mr. Hallett became a salesman in a hardware store for six years and then he became a member of the firm of Heath & Hallett, hardware dealers, Mr. Hallett engaging in this business for four years, after which time he purchased the share of his partner and for fifteen years, John W. Hallett conducted the business as the sole owner, then taking as a partner in his business, his son, Roy, who is now actively engaged in the management of the store. During the year 1891, Mr. Hallett erected a large brick business block, in which they are now operating their extensive business. In addition to his mercantile business, Mr. Hallett is a stockholder of the State Bank of Carson City, an institution which Mr. Hallett served as first president and which he now serves as vice-president. John W. Hallett is also interested in other business enterprises.

On March 22, 1874, John W. Hallett was married to Emma D. La Due, who was born in Cayuga county, New York, the daughter of Abraham and Barbara A. (Scott) La Due, natives of New York state, where the father died, after which the mother came to Carson City, Michigan, where she died. John W. and Emma Hallett are the parents of one son, Roy, who was born at Carson City, on April 2, 1875.

Roy Hallett was educated in the Carson City schools and at a commercial college of Rochester, New York, after which he entered the business of his father, where he is now engaged. In 1902, Roy Hallett was married to Anna Caroline Scriven, who was born in Ontario, Canada, the daughter of John Scriven and wife. Roy and Anna Caroline Hallett are the parents of three children, John L., Burton Scriven and Robert Gerald. Roy Hallett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and is one of the highly-respected business men of Carson City.

John W. Hallett has been prominent in the public affairs of Carson City, having served as the first president of the village after its incorporation, and since that time Mr. Hallett has been a leading and influential member of the village board.

Mr. Hallett is a prominent Mason of Carson City, and with his wife,

Mr. Hallett is an active member of the Congregational church. The Halletts of Carson City, Montcalm county, are among the honored families of the community, their part in the progress and advancement of the various interests of the locality having demonstrated their worth as citizens to Carson City.

ARTHUR M. STEBBINS.

Arthur M. Stebbins, who has been engaged in the tobacco and jewelry business, in Sheridan, for the past thirty-three years, was born in Lansingburg, New York, on June 29, 1853, and was the son of W. L. and Lucinda (Francisco) Stebbins.

W. L. Stebbins, a native of New York state, was the son of Jeremiah Stebbins, who was of English descent. The name was originally spelled Stebbings, and when the first families came to America in an early day the name was spelled Stebbings. Jeremiah Stebbins came to Ohio, where he made his home until his death.

Lucinda Francisco, the wife of W. L. Stebbins was of Hollander descent, but was a native of the state of New York, where she met and married Mr. Stebbins. After their marriage they lived in their native state until 1856, and Mr. Stebbins worked as a mechanic in New York. They then came to Ohio, residing on the homestead, where they took care of Mr. Stebbin's father and the farm until 1858, at which time the father died. W. L. Stebbins and his wife then came to Gratiot county, Michigan, where he bought three hundred and sixty acres of land and here they lived and died, Mr. Stebbins in 1895 and his wife in 1902.

W. L. Stebbins and wife were the parents of the following children, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and six are still living: Edgar, deceased; Arthur M., Clara, the wife of John Hughes, of Gratiot county; Frederick, of Montezuma, Indiana; Orville M., deceased; Minnie, the wife of James W. Wheeler, of Iola, Iowa; Bessie, the wife of Phelix Amelia, of St. Louis, Michigan, and Myrtle, the wife of Rev. H. H. Ford, of Springfield, Illinois. Arthur M. Stebbins remained at home with his father until he was eighteen years of age, when he learned the carpenter and the harness-maker's trades, at which he worked for some time.

On December 5, 1877, Mr. Stebbins was married to Matilda Simmons, the daughter of Leonard and Mary Simmons, originally of the state of New York. Mr. Simmons was a soldier in the Civil War and served his

country in a brave and efficient manner. After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins they resided for a time in St. Louis, Michigan, and then at Hartford for two years, and in 1882 they returned to St. Louis, the town where they were married and spent the first year of their married life. Since this time, Mr. Stebbins has been engaged in the jewelry business here.

Mr. and Mrs. Stebbins are the parents of four children, Betrand F., who resides at Petoskey; Maud, the wife of Frank Carr, of Lansing; Cora, the wife of Otto Olson, of Sidney township, and Harry M., who lives on a farm near Petoskey.

Fraternally, Mr. Stebbins is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Sheridan and politically he is a Republican, having served as a member of the school board and the town council.

CHARLES F. DICKINSON.

Charles F. Dickinson, pioneer citizen and now an honored supervisor of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, was born in Bloomer township, on March 2, 1857, the son of Charles R. and Hannah (Turrell) Dickinson. Charles R. Dickinson was born at New Haven, Addison county, Vermont, on May 24, 1825, a member of an old New England family, representatives of which came to Vermont, from Connecticut, prior to the Revolutionary War. Charles R. Dickinson came to Michigan with his parents, Julius C. Dickinson and wife, and settled in Jackson, where they lived for many years and then moved to Bloomer township, where Julius Dickinson died. After reaching Jackson county, Michigan, Charles R. Dickinson helped in the clearing of the wooded land and in the making of a home, where he lived until twenty-one years of age and then, after saving some money earned at odd jobs, Charles R. Dickinson went to the state of California, working there as a miner for some time. He then returned to Michigan and bought in 1853 a farm in Bloomer township, which Mr. Dickinson improved and cultivated and where he lived for the remainder of his active life.

On June 27, 1855, Charles R. Dickinson was married to Hannah Turrell, who was a native of Canada, and the daughter of Truman and Caroline (Coville) Turrell, the former of whom was born in Wyoming county, New York, in 1809, the son of Ebenezzer Turrell and wife. When a young man, Truman Turrell went to Canada where he secured a farm from the Canadian government, and there made his home for twenty-five years, after

which he disposed of his land and came to Bloomer township, Montcalm county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 35, where a pioneer home was established and where Mr. Turrell engaged in general farming. Owing to failing health his activities were suspended for about five years. Later, with the return of good health, Truman Turrell became a well-to-do farmer.

Hannah, the wife of Charles R. Dickinson, died on March 10, 1866, and on September 1, 1868, Mr. Dickinson was married to Mary Turrell, who died shortly following her marriage. On March 18, 1869, Charles R. Dickinson was married to Kate Sullivan, who died on September 13, 1912. Charles R. Dickinson died on September 13, 1899. Charles R. and Hannah Dickinson were the parents of the following children, Charles F., of this sketch, Ettie V. (deceased), and Harmon R.

Charles F. Dickinson, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the public schools of his native township, after which he became a farmer, he working on the home farm until after his marriage, when he rented his father's farm for some time and after his father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs in this farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, to which Mr. Dickinson moved and where he lived as a general farmer, until April, 1911, when he secured a property which was a former home of his father, in Carson City, and there Mr. Dickinson now lives.

On November 28, 1882, Charles F. Dickinson was married to Isabelle Wilson, who was born near Godridge, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of George and Mary (Screaton) Wilson, both of whom were born in England, he at Scarborough and she at Patrington, and who came to America, soon after their marriage, and settled in Canada, which was their home for some years, when they moved to Michigan, and located near Port Sanilac, where they lived the remainder of their lives, George Wilson dying in December, 1887; his wife in January, 1904. Mrs. Dickinson came to Carson City, in 1875, and lived with her sister, Mrs. Lizzie Gage, until the marriage of the former to Mr. Dickinson.

Charles F. Dickinson has taken an important place in the public life of Bloomer township, now being the township supervisor, an office which he has filled most satisfactorily for nine years; Mr. Dickinson also served his township as highway commissioner for about four years. In politics, Charles F. Dickinson is an ardent Republican. He is also prominently connected with the business circles of Carson City, for nine years having been a

director of the Ionia, Montcalm and Clinton Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company.

Faternally, Mr. Dickinson is a well-known member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Carson City, and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

JOHN N. BRICE.

John N. Brice, leading merchant, prominent citizen and man of influence in the affairs of his town and county, born in North Shade township, Gratiot county, Michigan, on January 14, 1876, the son of William and Caroline E. (Sturgis) Brice, natives of England. William Brice was born about 1830, and after his marriage in his native country, he came to America, and located in North Shade township, Gratiot county, where he bought about the year 1858, one hundred and sixty acres of uncleared land, which the elder Brice cleared and drained of much swamp land, and on which he built a log cabin, making his home on there for the remainder of his life, with the exception of four years, when he served as treasurer of Gratiot county.

William Brice was twice married, first, to one of the Harlow family in England. To this marriage were born three children, Richard, Ellen and Maria; and subsequently, Mr. Brice was married to Caroline E. (Sturgis) Burt, a native of Michigan, and the daughter of Norman Sturgis and wife, early settlers in Gratiot county. They became the parents of two children, Celestia and John N. Mrs. Brice by former marriage was the wife of Nathaniel Burt, who died while serving in the Civil War. To this marriage was born one son, Myron E.

William Brice was a prominent man of his community, having served as county treasurer for four years, as supervisor for fourteen years, and township treasurer for nine years. He died on February 23, 1907, survived by his widow, who now lives on the home place.

John N. Brice received his early education in the common schools of his native community, after which he attended and graduated from the Ithaca high school, and then he became a student at the Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, Michigan. Following his school days, Mr. Brice worked for one year on the home farm and then went to Grand Rapids, where he was employed in a department store for seven years, after which he

worked on the street railway for one year. In the year 1906, John N. Brice came to Carson City, and was a salesman in the McKenna store for three years, after which he operated an auto livery for three years and then was an employe of the Brooks store for about one year. On March 10, 1914, John N. Brice opened his own store, having purchased the stock and business of Mrs. W. A. Gardner, and where Mr. Brice is now successfully engaged in the sale of general merchandise.

On February 24, 1914, John N. Brice was married to Linda Babcock, who was born at Peck, Michigan, the daughter of Joseph and Rhoda (Allen) Babcock, the former a farmer, school teacher and shingle manufacturer at one time. Joseph Babcock was of English parentage and came to Peck, Michigan, from Canada, he also having engaged in carpenter work and at masonry work at Sandusky, Ohio, and at Wolverine, Michigan. Joseph Babcock died in 1900.

John N. Brice is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and he and his wife, are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Brice is a member of the Carson City Women's Club and is an active worker in the Congregational church. Mr. Brice and his wife are among the highly respected people of Carson City and Montcalm county, their pleasing ways and unselfish lives, devoted extensively to the interests of others, having won for them a host of friends and admirers.

ELI S. CLARK.

Eli S. Clark, who for many years has been a leading merchant and prominent citizen of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Schuyler county, New York, on February 10, 1848, a son of George and Erva (Jackson) Clark, natives of New York state. George Clark, who was a country merchant of the Empire state, in 1870, moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, and settled at Greenville, where, together with Judge Lovell, he built what is known as the Lovell and Clark block and where they opened a general merchandise store. They also became extensive dealers in lumber, having been the owners of one thousand five hundred acres of pine timber, which was standing where the town of Kendallville, Michigan, is now located.

Eli S. Clark, with his brother, Ethan J. Clark, opened a dry-goods store at Greenville, which was conducted under the firm name of Clark

Brothers, until 1891, when Eli S. Clark purchased the stock of his brother and since that time has conducted the store as the sole proprietor under the name of E. S. Clark. Mr. Clark, who has been a merchant of Greenville for forty-three years, now conducts the only exclusive dry-goods and furnishing store in Greenville, now being one of the leading forces and influences in the business life of this community.

On July 29, 1869, Eli S. Clark was married to Martha E. Drake, of Walkins, New York, and to this marriage have been born three children, two daughters, who are deceased, and one son, Leon, who after graduating from the Greenville high school, was married and now is a produce merchant of Eureka township. Mrs. Clark is an active member of the Congregational church, of which Mr. Clark is an attendant and toward the support of which he is a liberal contributor, Mr. Clark being much interested in the work of this church and giving liberally to its support.

In the political life of the community, Mr. Clark takes a leading place in the affairs of the Republican party. As a citizen and as a business man, he is highly respected and honored, his sterling character having won for him an enviable place in Greenville and Montcalm county.

ISAAC KROHN.

Isaac Krohn, leading merchant and prominent citizen of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Posen, Germany, on September 14, 1859, the son of Louis and Hannah Krohn, who lived their entire life in their native country.

Following his school days in his native country, Isaac Krohn worked in a notion store of Gnesen, Germany, and at twenty years of age, he came to America, and after a few days in New York city, during which time he suffered hardships as a result of lack of means, he was directed, by a friend to his uncle who lived in Detroit, Michigan. During the early days of his life in Detroit, Isaac Krohn engaged in the peddling business, which he discontinued as a result of failure, due to the inability of Mr. Krohn to speak good English. He then secured a position in a dry-goods store, where he was employed at three dollars per week. Later, he moved to Greenville, about 1883, and was a salesman in the store of Jacobson & Netzorg, for about five years, after which Mr. Krohn engaged in business with an acquaintance at Mancelona, Antrim county, a partnership which continued

for one year, when Isaac Krohn disposed of his interest and then went to Cadillac, where he was employed in a dry-goods store. After two years at Cadillac, Mr. Krohn went to Detroit and on stopping at Ithaca, he became acquainted with a business man, who offered him employment, which he accepted and where he remained for two years, during that time marrying a sister of his employer. Following his marriage, Mr. Krohn remained in Ithaca for about one year, and then came to Carson City, which at that time was having its first railroad lines constructed. Being favorably impressed with Carson City, Mr. Krohn, in May, 1886, established a general merchandise store in an old building, receiving his first stock of goods on the first train to reach the town, and now Mr. Krohn is one of the leading merchants of the town, owning the largest store of Carson City and carrying the most complete stock of dry goods, clothing, shoes and women's and men's furnishings. He has prospered as a merchant, and now is a stockholder of the State Bank of Carson City, and is a man whose judgment and counsel on matters of business, are sought by many.

In 1885, Isaac Krohn was married to Dessie Netzorg, who was born in Russian Poland and who came with her parents to America in 1883, and lived at Greenville for a time, then at Detroit and later moved to Ithaca, where she was married. To the marriage of Isaac and Dessie Krohn have been born two children, Florence, who attended the manual training school at Saginaw, Michigan, for two years, and Raymond, who is a graduate of the Carson City high school and who now is associated with his father in business.

Isaac Krohn is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Krohn and his family are members among the highly respected and honored people of Carson City.

ALFRED F. SKARRITT.

Alfred F. Skarritt, well known for many years as a successful and enterprising citizen of this county, was born on January 20, 1858, in White-lake township, Oakland county, Michigan, and is the son of Richard and Fanny (Porter) Skarritt. Richard Skarritt was born on March 6, 1835, in Ireland, and is the son of Richard and Catherine Skarritt, also natives of Ireland, who emigrated to America when Richard was but two years of age. They located on a farm in Oakland county, Michigan, where they

farmed until death. Richard Skarritt, Jr., was reared and educated in Oakland county, Michigan, and was also married there. His wife, Fanny (Porter) Skarritt, was born in 1844, in Oakland county, Michigan. Six children blessed the union of this couple: Alfred F., Richard Jr., Jesse, Edward, Andrew and Charles, all born in Oakland county, Michigan. Richard Skarritt, the father of these children, served for nine months during the Civil War, in the Twenty-fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, his term of service being toward the last of the conflict. He has always been an active Democrat, but has never aspired to office, attending strictly to his farming interests. He is retired from active farming, but still resides on the home place near his children. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his wife, whose death occurred in 1887.

Alfred F. Skarritt was reared on the home place and received his education in the schools of Oakland county, Michigan, in White Lake township. On March 14, 1882, he was married to Ada Brasington, daughter of Rufus and Minerva (Dewel) Brasington, and to them was born one child, Alvin R., who died when eight months of age. His birth occurred on September 28, 1885. Ada (Brasington) Skarritt was born on August 7, 1862, in Oakland county, Michigan. Her father, Rufus Brasington, is a native of New York state, having been born in May, 1834, in Leroy county, and is the son of Tunis and Julia (Glass) Brasington. He came to Michigan with his parents when only two years of age, locating on a farm in Waterford township, Oakland county, Michigan. His parents resided on this place until death and the farm has since been in his possession. He is now more than eighty years of age and has lived here all his life. To the union of Rufus and Minerva (Dewey) Brasington were born two children, William, who lives at home, and Ada. Tunis Brasington was a native of New York state where he was reared and educated, and became one of the pioneers of Oakland county, Michigan. Julia (Glass) Brasington also was a native of New York, where she was married. Ada (Brasington) Skarritt was born in Pontiac, Oakland county, Michigan, where she was reared and educated and married.

Alfred Skarritt located in Edmore, Michigan, in 1887, where he engaged in the meat business which he successfully conducted alone for nine years, at that time forming a partnership with John Sack, the firm being known as Skarritt & Sack. This partnership continued for eleven years after which Alfred Skarritt sold his interest to John Sack, and engaged in the buying and selling of cattle, sheep and hogs. He is an excellent judge of

live stock and has been very successful in all his enterprises, as is evidenced by the beautiful and spacious home which he has erected on Main street west, in Edmore, Montcalm county, Michigan. This is by far the finest home in the village and one of the finest in the county. Alfred Skarritt is practically retired, although he still deals in live stock to some extent, and is slated for postmaster under President Wilson's administration, taking office on January 1, 1916. In his fraternal relations, he is affiliated with the blue lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons, of Edmore, Michigan. Politically, he is a strong Democrat and is the first Democratic postmaster the town has had for many years.

CHARLES E. HENRY.

Charles E. Henry, successful farmer and prominent citizen of Greenville, Montcalm county, where he is now living a retired life, was born at Henrietta, Monroe county, New York, on January 22, 1838, the son of Thomas and Haley (Brown) Henry, the former born in Ulster, Ireland, the latter in New York state.

Thomas Henry and his family moved to the state of Michigan, in 1846, and settled at Grattan, Kent county, where they established a pioneer home, cleared the land of timber and brush, and here the elder Henry engaged in farming until the year 1861, when he died.

Charles E. Henry engaged in farming until 1861, when he enlisted in Company K, Third Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served as a part of the Army of the Potomac, being engaged in the first battle of Bull Run and having a part in the construction of the fortifications for the protection of Washington, D. C., until the second battle of Bull Run, when he was wounded, as a result of which he was discharged in November, 1862.

After his discharge from military service, Mr. Henry returned to Kent county, Michigan, and taught school for one winter, after which he was a student for about two years, attending the normal school at Ypsilanti one year, one term at Ann Arbor and graduated from Bryant and Stratton's Commercial College at Detroit in 1865. He then took charge of his brother's farm, while the latter was serving as a soldier of the Civil War. Later, Charles E. Henry secured a farm, which he cultivated profitably, paying for the land which he had secured, and on this place he lived until 1876, when

he moved to a farm near Smyrna, Ionia county, and lived there until 1880. At this time, Mr. Henry went to Dakota and located on a farm of four hundred and eighty acres, which he homesteaded and where he lived until he had accumulated one thousand one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which Mr. Henry resided for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Montcalm county, and purchased one thousand and forty acres in Day township. On this farm he placed extensive improvements, prepared his land for cultivation, living at McBride until 1904, and then after disposing of the greater part of his land, came to Greenville, where he now lives a retired life.

In September, 1870, Charles E. Henry was married to Florence R. Norton, who was born in Ontario county, New York, the daughter of Myron H. and Sarah (Skinner) Norton, who came to a farm of two hundred and seventy acres located near Smyrna, Ionia county, which was their home for some time, after which Mr. Norton later moved to Greenville, where he was engaged in several lines of business. To the marriage of Charles H. and Florence Henry have been born the following children: Norton M., a druggist, who married Bessie McCarty and to whom have been born three children, Alice, Gerald and Myron; Florence R., who was the wife of Dr. Bell, of McBride, and who died about the year 1903; Ethel, who is the wife of Rudolph Newton, of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, and to whom have been born four children, Ethelbert, Charles Henry, Rudolph and Florence; Burton, a lumber dealer of Vancouver, British Columbia, who married Jessie Walsh, and to whom have been born two children, Neva and Marguerite; Alice, who is a stenographer of Los Angeles, California; Mabel, who is the wife of Joseph Gibson, of Greenville, and to whom have been born two children, Joseph and Charles Henry; Charles, who is a farmer living near Stanton, and who married Alice Glockzin, who are the parents of three children, Charles Jr., Helen and Marian, and Gladys, who after graduating from Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, in 1915, became a teacher at a private school at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Charles E. Henry is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, at Greenville, and at Gratton, Kent county, he was for forty-six years prominent in Masonry. Mr. Henry is respected and esteemed in Montcalm county, his pleasing ways and interest in the development of the community and its resources having given him a place of note among the men of the county and vicinity.

Charles E. Henry, Jr., one of the well-known farmers of Montcalm county, was born on October 31, 1888, in the state of South Dakota, and after the completion of his early education in the schools of McBride, and at Greenville, became a student at Staunton Military Academy, of Staunton, Virginia, he later attending the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing, as a special student of agriculture and he also having, in 1909, graduated from Valparaiso University, of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Charles E. Henry, Jr., is now engaged in general agricultural pursuits on eighty acres of land near Stanton, Day township, he also having charge of a large tract of his father's land. He is one of the promising young farmers of Montcalm township, his efforts being attended with excellent results.

HENRY HARRISON HINDS.

Henry Harrison Hinds, of Stanton, Michigan, a prominent farmer and extensive landowner, was born in Forest Lake township, near Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1840. He is a son of Preserved and Ann Eusworth (Walling) Hinds, the father being a native of a New England state, and the mother, of New York. Preserved Hinds was a carpenter by trade, and lived in the vicinity of Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, until his death, when almost ninety years of age. His wife survived him, and died in Spokane, Washington, at the age of one hundred years, six months and seventeen days. They were members of the "Deep-water" Baptist church. He was once a commissioner of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. The paternal grandfather of Henry H. Hinds was Conrad Hinds, whose wife's name is not of record.

Henry H. Hinds was twelve years old when he first came to Michigan. He spent a year at Hillsdale, with his aunt, Lydia Brunson, then went back to Pennsylvania, where he grew to manhood, and also attended the common schools there. At Montrose he enlisted in 1861 for service in the Civil War, and served in Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, until the close of that great struggle in 1865. He was first sergeant of the company from the start, but was afterward promoted, successively, to second lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain, and at muster-out, was the captain of his company. He participated in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac in which his regiment was engaged, up to Gettysburg. At Fredericksburg, his brother, William W., a duty sergeant, was



MIC. AND MRS. HENRY E. HINTON



mortally wounded and died in his arms thirteen days later. Captain Hinds was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, at the Shirley House, from which no man escaped, it being the salient point of General Sickles' line. He was confined in the "Yankee" officers' quarters of practically all the prisons of the South where officers were held; in all, six hundred and nine days. He was one of the famous one hundred and nine in the "Libby Prison Tunnel" gang, who succeeded in escaping. Fifty-two reached the Union lines, two were drowned, and the others were eventually recaptured, amongst whom were Col. Thomas Edward Rose, who had charge and engineered the construction of the tunnel, and Captain Hinds.

After the war, Captain Hinds left Montrose, Pennsylvania, and came to Stanton, Michigan, arriving in October, 1866, after dark, on foot, wearing one rubber and carrying the other in his hand. Next day after his arrival, he purchased one forty acres of virgin pine land, the first land he ever owned, it being embraced within the present corporate limits of Stanton, and which he yet owns. He has added to it until the farm now embraces one thousand acres or more, and he is also the owner of other lands in this state and in the West. He cleared a field in this locality, and produced the first crop on "pine-stump" land in this part of Michigan. He also owns city property in Stanton. His stump pulling was the first done in this part of the state. He also built the first rod of sidewalk in the town of Stanton. Here he engaged in merchandising and the lumber business for many years, but at present is giving his attention to live stock farming, his specialty being Shorthorn cattle. He was one of the organizers and president of the First National Bank of Stanton.

Even before he had gained a residence here, Captain Hinds was elected to a local public office, and has been supervisor, chairman of the board of supervisors, state senator, and was at the head of the state live stock sanitary commission for twenty-eight years, prior to which time he had been a member of the board of control of the state public school at Coldwater, Michigan, during the construction period and inauguration of this wise charity for the benefit of indigent children, which is the parent institution of its kind in the world. Captain Hinds was a long-time member and president of the Stanton school board, and for more than a quarter of a century was connected with and one of the managers of the State Agricultural Society, which has charge of the Michigan state fair.

On December 16, 1871, Capt. Henry H. Hinds married Mary Elizabeth Sherwood, of Rushville, Pennsylvania, daughter of William H. and Mary

Jane (Turrel) Sherwood. Mary E. Sherwood was born on December 10, 1853, in Forest Lake township, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. Her paternal grandfather was Nathan J. Sherwood. To this union were born five children who survived the period of infancy, as follow: Edna, Alma, Eva, May and Sherwood. Edna was born on September 17, 1875, and died on April 30, 1892, in her seventeenth year. Alma was born on February 15, 1877. She was married to Edward H. Baker, April 28, 1907, and is now residing in Flint, Michigan. She has two children, Edward Hinds, born on March 19, 1908, and Edna Estelle, born on February 26, 1910. Eva was born on March 21, 1882. She was married to Frank D. Phelps, October 25, 1908, and is now residing in Hudson, Michigan. She has one daughter, Elizabeth, born on August 17, 1910. May was born on May 13, 1883. She has been a victim of epilepsy from infancy and is permanently in an institution for care and treatment. Sherwood was born on March 1, 1885. He married Mary Hayes, July 24, 1909, and is now a civil and mechanical engineer, residing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has three children, Dorothy, born on October 16, 1910; Ward R., February 11, 1912, and Sherwood Richard, June 24, 1915. Mrs. Hinds died on October 13, 1903, aged nearly fifty years. She was a charter member of the First Congregational church at Stanton.

Captain Hinds was the first man initiated in Stanton Star Lodge, No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, in Stanton, Michigan, and later was master of the same for a number of years. He is also a charter member of Stanton Chapter No. 110, Royal Arch Masons, and has been its high priest, and for more than forty years he has been a member of Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar. He has been a member of Grand Rapids Consistory, Scottish Rite Masons, for more than thirty-five years. He is also an old member of Saladin Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids. He and his wife were charter members of Stanton Chapter No. 47, Order of the Eastern Star, he having been first worthy patron, and she first worthy matron of that chapter. Captain Hinds was grand worthy patron of the state of Michigan; also most worthy grand patron of the Order of the Eastern Star of the world, the highest rank attainable in that order. He and his wife were long-time members of the Grange, he having served as a member of the executive committee of the state grange. They were charter members of Stanton Grange No. 748, he being its first master, and she was its first lecturer. Mrs. Hinds served as a member of the woman's work committee of the state grange from the time the committee was inaugurated

until her death. Captain Hinds is a charter member of Stanton Post No. 37, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan, and was the post's first commander. His wife was a charter member and first president of Stanton Women's Relief Corps No. 9, and from that position rose to department president for the state of Michigan.

LESLIE T. BARBER.

Leslie T. Barber, one of the leading business men of Edmore, Montcalm county, is a young man with an excellent future before him. Progressively active and highly efficient, he commands the respect of all who know him. He was born on March 11, 1886, in St. Louis, Michigan, and is the son of David and Ida (Bisbee) Barber. He was reared and educated in his native town, after which he acquired a working knowledge of the steam-fitter's trade and followed this for a short time. He then learned the wholesale produce business which he thoroughly mastered, being a partner of his stepfather, J. V. Glassford, until his death. He then launched out for himself by entering the employ of Swift & Co., in the same line at Edmore, Michigan, where he located in 1908. After severing his connection with this firm he left Edmore for a short time, but finally returned and engaged in the produce business for himself.

On August 12, 1913, the L. Barber & Company Creamery was organized with local capital and a new plant was erected with all modern improvements and machinery, and a fine fire-proof structure. This plant is located near the Pere Marquette railroad, at Edmore, Michigan, and has branch buying stations throughout the state. A fine grade of butter is made here and much poultry shipped. Leslie T. Barber is the manager of this thriving concern and does most of the buying. In his political life he is affiliated with the Republican party and is now a member of the local town council. Fraternally, he is a member of Edmore Lodge, No. 360, of the Free and Accepted Masons.

On November 10, 1908, Leslie T. Barber was united in marriage to Lulu M. Newberry, daughter of Steven E. and Emma (Thomas) Newberry, and they are the parents of one child, namely, Thelma Etola, whose birth occurred on October 13, 1910. Steven E. Newberry was born in Genesee county, Michigan, on November 30, 1852, and is the son of William Newberry and his wife, both natives of England. Steven E. New-

berry was reared in his native county and in 1884, he removed to South Dakota and thence to Iowa, locating in St. Louis, Michigan, on May 25, 1888. He was a carpenter by trade and still follows that vocation at intervals. On June 9, 1877, Steven E. Newberry was married to Emma Thomas, daughter of Timothy and Mary (Holman) Thomas, who were both natives of England, and to them were born three children, whose names follow: Jennie, wife of Edwin McManus, of Waterloo, Iowa; Emma, and Ethel, wife of Milton Pokorny, also of Waterloo, Iowa. Emma Thomas was born on March 21, 1858, in Lapeer county, Michigan, and after her marriage accompanied her husband to Piere, South Dakota, at which place her daughter, Lulu M., was born. She was about four years of age when they located in St. Louis, Michigan, and there she was reared and educated, graduating from the local high school with the class of 1906. She then taught for one year in the district schools of that locality. Her parents now live in Boyne City, Michigan.

ELMER E. STODDARD.

Elmer E. Stoddard is the editor and publisher of the *Sheridan Advertiser* of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is public spirited on all questions pertaining to the good of the community. He was born in Schuyler county, New York, on July 27, 1863, and is the son of Henry and Sarah J. (Norris) Stoddard. They came to the town of Sheridan, Michigan, in October, 1867, where Henry Stoddard operated a store and saw-mill for many years. Financial reverses came and he lost heavily. He is now retired.

Elmer E. Stoddard received his education in the public schools of Sheridan, Michigan, and when seventeen years of age he began work in a saw-mill which position he held until twenty years of age. He then learned the printer's trade of Edwin S. Gill, on the old *Sheridan News*, continuing in that occupation for a period of five years. During that time he worked in different places and finally removed to Muir, Ionia county, Michigan, where he engaged in the painting and paper-hanging business until in October, 1902, at which time he returned to Sheridan, Michigan, and in March, 1904, purchased the present business of A. E. Bacon. On July 4, 1887, Elmer E. Stoddard was married to Alta A. Clough and to their union have been born three children: Ethlyn, a graduate of the Sheridan high school

and the wife of Edwin R. Chapman, who was superintendent of schools at the time of her graduation and is now superintendent of the Pinconning school, in Bay county, Michigan; Esther is a graduate of the Sheridan high school and is now the wife of James B. Wood, of Sheridan, Michigan; Lottie died at the age of six years. Elmer E. Stoddard is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge, No. 324, of the Free and Accepted Masons and has served in most of the offices of this order. Politically, he is of the Republican faith and has been very active in local propaganda. He is also president of the village council and has served as president of the county canvassers, for several years. His publishing plant has its own electric system and beside furnishing the lighting power for the printing business, it also lights the Masonic lodge.

J. PHILO TAYLOR, D. D. S.

Dr. J. Philo Taylor, one of the leaders, not only in professional circles, but in the social and public life of Carson City, Montcalm County, was born at Wolcottville, Noble county, Indiana, the son of Venoris R. and Mary A. (Rowe) Taylor, natives of Connecticut and of Pennsylvania, respectively. Venoris R. Taylor moved to Wolcottville when he was a young man and there engaged in the general merchandise business for the remainder of his days. He was one of the organizers of the Methodist Assembly, at Rome City, Indiana, and was the first man to erect a cottage at that place.

J. Philo Taylor received his early education in the schools of Wolcottville, after which he attended college at Hillsdale, Michigan, for some time and then became a student of dentistry at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and after graduating from which, Dr. Taylor came to Carson City in 1878, and began the practice of his profession, since that time having been one of the most successful dental surgeons in the community.

Dr. J. Philo Taylor has taken a most important place in the public and official life of Bloomer township and of Montcalm county, having served as township clerk for seventeen years; as chairman of the Republican county committee, and Dr. Taylor is a citizen whose counsel and judgment on matters of politics and party affairs have given him a country-wide reputation.

In business circles, Dr. Taylor is prominently connected, being a director of the State Bank of Carson City, as well as being the owner of one of the choice farms of the county. Dr. Taylor is a prominent member

of the Free and Accepted Masons, having served as master of the lodge at Carson City; he is also a noble of the Mystic Shrine, and has attained to the honored position of a thirty-second degree Mason.

R. J. TOWER.

R. J. Tower was born on February 1, 1859, on the old Tower farm homestead in Oakfield township, Kent county, Michigan, about ten miles west and south of Greenville.

The first fourteen years of his life were spent on the farm doing the ordinary farm boy's duties, when he could not escape them, and making "things" in the old corn barn shop. He well remembers how in the frosty October mornings he would go down into the back lot, barefooted, to drive the cows up to be milked—they used to let them out to pasture over night—and how he would stand on the ground where a cow had been lying to get his feet warm.

His early school days are still fresh in his memory. Every inch of the whole one and three-fourth miles to the old White Swan school house is as clearly in mind as though it were traveled over yesterday, and the copper-toed boots which would not keep the water out, but seemed always to have water inside. How the boys played "snap the whip," and how the Tower boy seemed always to be "snapper."

The winter of 1874 and 1875 saw R. J. Tower going to the red brick Union school in Rockford, Michigan, while his father was in East Tennessee supervising the building of a foundry and machine shop. In April, 1875, he went to his father at Sweetwater, Tennessee, remaining there until December of the same year, when the family came to Greenville. After attending the Greenville schools a year or two, he went into his father's shops and became a machinist. February 1, 1880, he became of age, and with his elder brother took over his father's business, continuing in partnership with his brother until October 1, 1882. At this date his brother drew out of the business and the R. J. Tower iron works was established and for about five years a history of the Tower shop is a history of R. J. Tower, as he made its work his life interest.

In 1887 it began to dawn upon his mind that a certain girl was a necessary possession, if his happiness was to be complete. On December 25, 1888, the girl, Miss Linna D. Baker, and Ray J. Tower were united in

matrimony. The partnership has continued for almost twenty-seven years. Many years ago his wife recommended to him to make all his aims have a definite goal, and he considers this to be the best advice he ever received.

Since his marriage, the life history of Mr. Tower is only the history of one venture after another. Some failures, some successes. An attempt in 1804 to manufacture opera chairs, which failed. Twelve or fifteen attempts to beautify spots in Greenville, spots which had been anything but beautiful, these attempts have not been failures.

All these years Mr. Tower has been operating the iron works, digressing in 1907 long enough to start the R. J. Tower electric plant and flouring-mills. These and the iron works and other ventures go to make Mr. Tower's life a busy one. He says he is going to quit in "two or three" years, and have some time to play, but there are those who doubt it.

One son only survives of three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Tower. This son, Francis E., is becoming acquainted with the work at the iron works, and will eventually have a share in its management.

REV. JOHN J. SHEEHAN.

The Rev. John J. Sheehan, who succeeded the Rev. K. J. Whelan as pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church at Carson City, has endeared himself to the people of his congregation and by executive ability built up a thriving parish. He is a native of East Tawas, Michigan, where he was born on May 5, 1876, a son of Timothy and Ellen (O'Connell) Sheehan, both of whom were born in Ontario, Canada. Timothy Sheehan, who was born in 1844, came to Michigan in 1863 and settled in East Tawas. In 1880 he moved to Bay City where he has lived ever since.

In the St. James's parochial school at Bay City, the Rev. John Sheehan received a rudimentary education and later attended the College of St. Sulpice, at Montreal, Canada. Feeling the need of a more thorough preparation before assuming the duties of his calling, the subject of this sketch determined to study six years longer and as a result was enrolled in the American College at Rome, one of the most famous schools of its kind in the world. On April 11, 1903, he was ordained in the Church of St. John Lateran, in Rome, styled in Roman usage, "the mother church of the city and the world," and surpassing St. Peter's church in dignity. Upon his return to this country he was assigned the position of assistant at St.

Andrew's cathedral in Grand Rapids, and for a short time had charge of St. Mary's French parish at Manistee, Michigan.

As pastor of the Immaculate Conception church at Traverse City, Rev. Sheehan remained in charge from 1905 until January, 1914, when he left to assume the duties of his present parish at Carson City, where he is priest of St. Mary's church. The school which is connected with the church is conducted by the Dominican Order of Sisters, who have labored unceasingly for its welfare.

In closing this sketch it might be stated that the Rev. John Sheehan, with naught of intellectual bigotry, has shown in his church activities and in all other relations of life the true and gentle spirit of a lover of mankind. He is a man of unusually high intellectual attainments, is unassuming, frank and well fortified in convictions concerning economic and governmental affairs.

JOHN WILLIAMS SMITH PIERSON.

The ancestors of John W. S. Pierson were probably of Yorkshire extraction.

I. Pierson: Henry Pierson, the emigrant ancestor, was born in England and settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, whence he came as early as 1640, to Southampton, Long Island, with a colony from Massachusetts, of which Rev. Abraham Pierson, first president of Yale College, believed to be his brother, was the pastor. Henry married Mary Cooper, who was also from Lynn. From 1669 to 1680 Henry was clerk of Suffolk county. He died in 1680. His widow married Rev. Seth Fletcher and went to live at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, taking her son Benjamin Pierson with her. Children of Henry and Mary Pierson, John, Daniel and Joseph; Henry died in 1701; Benjamin died in 1731; Theodore (mentioned below), Sarah born in 1660.

II. Theodore. Son of Henry Pierson. Born at Southampton, Long Island, 1665. He had sons, John and Job (mentioned below).

III. Job. Son of Theodore Pierson, born 1697, died 1788. He had sons, David and Lemuel (mentioned below).

IV. Lemuel. Son of Job Pierson was born in 1723 in Southampton. He had sons, Samuel (mentioned below) and William, born in 1762.

V. Samuel. Son of Lemuel Pierson, born at Bridgehampton, Long Island, 1753. Died in 1838; married in 1778 to Jerusha Conklin. Children,

Johanne, born 1780, Samuel Dayton born in 1786, Esther born in 1789, Job (mentioned below), Mary born in 1794.

VI. Job (2). Son of Samuel Pierson, born at Bridgehampton, Long Island, on September 23, 1791. Died at Troy, New York, April 9, 1860. Graduated Williams College in 1811. He read law at Salem, Washington county, New York, and in 1815 became law partner of Judge Knickerbocker of Schaghticoke, New York. He married September 24, 1815, Clarissa Taintor Bulkeley. He was elected in 1833 surrogate of Rensselaer county, New York, and from 1830 to 1834 was representative in Congress. His wife died in 1865. Children, Sarah Jerusha, born at Schaghticoke, New York, 1815, married to Philip T. Heartt in 1839; 2, Samuel Dayton, born 1819, died in 1850; 3, Job (mentioned below); 4, Mary Bulkley, born 1825, married Major Oscar Winship of United States army; had one son, Samuel Cooper; she died in 1912; 5, John Bulkley, born in 1828, died in 1885, president of National City Bank, Troy, New York; married Mary Lockwood, had one child daughter, Mary, who died at the age of three years.

VII. Job (3). Son of Job (2) Pierson. Born at Schaghticoke, February 3, 1824. In 1834 he prepared for college at Ballard Academy, Bennington, Vermont, and in the Francis school at Troy, New York, and was graduated from Williams College in 1842. He then, after a short time in his father's law office in Troy in 1844, entered Auburn Theological Seminary from which he was graduated in 1847. He was ordained in the Presbyterian ministry in 1851. He had pastorates at Corning, New York, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Catskill, Pittsford and Victor, New York, Kalamazoo and Ionia, Michigan. During the fall of 1856 he made a trip to Great Britain, retiring from active work as minister in 1879. From 1889 to 1894 he was librarian of Alma College, at Alma, Michigan. For upwards of twenty years he was engaged in work for the New English Dictionary published by the Philological Society of London and also for the Stanford Dictionary, edited by Dr. Fennell. He was the largest contributor of words of anyone on this side of the Atlantic. He died at Stanton, Michigan, where he had resided from 1892 to 1896, on February 3, 1896. He married February 7, 1849, Rachel W. Smith, born on December 11, 1820, at Gloucester, Massachusetts, and who died January 19, 1908, at Atlantic City, New Jersey. There were born to them: 1. Clarissa Taintor, born at Troy, New York, September 15, 1850; married on December 11, 1872, to Beverly Chew of New York City. Died in 1880, leaving no children. 2. Samuel Dayton, born at Pittsford, New York, October 25, 1852, died at Vergennes, Vt., April 28, 1914. 3.

John Williams Smith (mentioned below). 4. Bowen Whiting, born at Victor, New York, 1858, died at Bridgehampton, Long Island, July 4, 1907; married on October 12, 1887, to Nannie Meech of Norwich, Connecticut. They had one child, Clarissa, born June 8, 1890, residing at present with her mother in New York City. 5. Philip Titus Heartt, born at Victor, New York, March 15, 1859, married on October 6, 1915, to Mabel Dora Patterson and now resides at Bennington, Vermont.

VIII. John Williams Smith. Son of Job (3) Pierson and Rachel Williams, born at Pittsford, New York, July 20, 1854, moved with his father's family to Victor, New York, in 1856, and to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1863. Here he attended school until 1870, when the family moved to Ionia, Michigan, December 8, 1870, when he went to Greenville, Michigan, and entered the employ of Lovell Brothers & Green, as an apprentice in their tin shop and after serving the full time, three years, entered their employ as a hardware salesman, where he remained until July, 1876. After visiting the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, he returned to Ionia, Michigan, in the fall and entered the employ of Lovell & Morse, where he worked for a short time in both the tin shop and the store. On November 21, 1876, assisted by his brother, Philip T. H. Pierson, opened a hardware and stove store in the Morrison building on East Main street. With increasing trade, early in 1877, the stock was removed to the Paine building, 108 West Main street, where a lease was taken for a term of years. The great fire of October 12, 1880, completely destroyed the building and stock of goods. The business was soon re-established in temporary quarters in the Palace block. Meanwhile, the implement building at 114 East Main street was fitted up with a store front and counters and the business was removed to this point until the Paine building could be rebuilt. In March, 1881, the business was reopened in the new Paine building, 108 West Main street. On February 23, 1885, the implement building at 112 East Main street was completely destroyed by fire. An adjoining lot on the west was purchased of Mr. E. K. Wood and plans were made for the Pierson building, size forty-four by one hundred feet. Meanwhile, Mr. Pierson, together with D. L. McFadden, erected the Phoenix block on Camburn avenue, as a permanent building for the implement department. That year the business that had been conducted as founded by John W. S. Pierson was changed to John W. S. Pierson & Company and Philip T. H. Pierson became a partner. On January 22, 1886, the dedication of the present building was celebrated by a reception which marked the rebuilding of Stanton, and the exercises were attended by a large number of people from our city and the rural districts. On March 13,

1880, the new building was opened for business purposes. On February 1, 1891, the business was incorporated under the name of John W. S. Pierson & Company, the officers being John W. S. Pierson, president; Philip T. H. Pierson, vice-president, and Elmer S. Stebbins, secretary and treasurer, and at this time Mr. Levi W. Hunsicker and George W. Markee became stockholders in the corporation with the officers. On November 21, 1901, the silver anniversary, marking twenty-five years of continued business, was celebrated.

John W. S. Pierson was married to Clara Eleanor Dillingham, daughter of Capt. Lucius Abell and Jennie Lincoln Dillingham, at Coldwater, Michigan, on October 9, 1904. Born to them one son, John Lincoln, who died in infancy. They have two adopted sons, Harold Dillingham Pierson, who resides in Detroit, and John Howard Pierson.

Mr. Pierson, wishing to be relieved from the direction and details of the hardware business, in order to give more attention to other business interests, on March 27, 1908, to take effect April 1, sold a controlling interest in the corporation of John W. S. Pierson & Co., to Elmer S. Stebbins and Charles L. Meach, with no change in the corporate name, Mr. Pierson retaining a substantial interest as a shareholder and becoming vice-president. On March 7, 1911, when the corporation changed its name to the Stebbins-Gaffield Co., Mr. Pierson upon this date formed the partnership under the title of The John W. S. Pierson Company, dealing in investment securities, chiefly Michigan investments, with offices in the second floor of the Pierson building, with the following officers: John W. S. Pierson, president and treasurer; Philip T. H. Pierson, vice-president, and Levi W. Hunsicker, secretary. Through the first change in the name of the corporation and the later one on January 8, 1913, to Stanton Hardware Company, Mr. Pierson has retained the same interest as shareholder, and the office of vice-president in the business he founded in 1876, in his own name. Apart from business interests Mr. Pierson is interested in the civic, social, and religious interests of our city. During his long residence as a business man he has not sought or accepted any salaried public office, but has accepted offices where he felt he could be of service to the community. He was alderman in the first ward for 1882-1883, trustee of the city schools for sixteen years, 1894 to 1910, and treasurer of the school board for ten years of this period and during the erection of the new school house in 1905. He was no less interested in the welfare of the church. A trustee of the First Congregational church since 1886 and united with said church, on profession of faith, on March 1, 1885. He founded the weekly offering sys-

tem of the church on 1893 and succeeded his brother, Philip T. H. Pierson, as clerk of said church in 1909. Outside of affairs in his home city, Mr. Pierson is deeply interested in the welfare of Alma College at Alma, Michigan, of which he has been trustee since 1898.

Mrs. Pierson is the author of a large number of children's books, all of which have been published by E. P. Dutton & Company, New York. "Mrs. Pierson," said *The Outlook*, "has done for children what Mrs. Gatty did for grown people in 'Parables from Nature.'" She is the author of "Among the Meadow People," "Among the Forest People," "Among the Farmyard People," "Among the Pond People," "Among the Night People," "Dooryard Stories" and "Tales of a Poultry Farm." Besides these seven volumes, Mrs. Pierson has also written a series of children's stories which together constitute the Pencroft Books. In this series of four different but closely related stories are, "The Millers and Their New Home," "Three Little Millers," "The Millers at Pencroft" and "The Millers and Their Playmates."

About this latter series, the merit of the stories was well summed up by *The Churchman*, when it said: "A new book about the 'Little Millers' will surely be welcomed with pleasure by all little readers."

"The secret of Mrs. Pierson's popularity," say her publishers, "lies in the fact that what she teaches is conveyed so unobtrusively and naturally that the child does not feel that against his will he is being supplied with facts and morals in story form."

CHARLES M. MILLER.

Charles M. Miller, banker and active business man in Greenville, was born in Eureka township, on April 8, 1869, a son of Oscar C. and Catherine (Berridge) Miller. He attended the Greenville schools, graduating from the high school in 1888. One year later, Mr. Miller completed a course of study in the Detroit Business University, after which he became associated with his father in the shoe business under the firm name of O. C. Miller & Son. In this business Charles M. Miller became manager on entering the firm, purchasing the interests of his father in 1898. In 1904, Mr. Miller became vice-president and general manager of Commercial State Savings Bank, and extended the ownership of his store, accepting as partners, William Wells and Jessie Wyckoff. The firm continued in business

as Wells, Wyckoff & Miller, for one year, at the end of which time Mr. Miller disposed of his mercantile interests to B. O. Beach.

Since this time Mr. Miller has been associated with the Commercial State Savings Bank, an institution which, under the able direction of Mr. Miller and his associates, has become one of the strong and reliable banking houses of the county.

On August 9, 1899, Charles M. Miller was married to Nora Macomber, a daughter of Allen E. and Esther Macomber, of Lakeview, Michigan. Mrs. Miller was educated at the Lakeview high school and at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. To the marriage of Charles M. and Nora Miller has been born one daughter, Esther C., who was born on October 22, 1900, and who is now a student in the Greenville high school.

Charles M. Miller and his family are active members of the First Congregational church at Greenville, and are well-known workers in this congregation.

As a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Miller has been especially active, having served as a member of the board of education for six years, and while a member of this body, served on the building committee having charge of the erection of the Union high school in Greenville. He is a member of Greenville Lodge, No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons; of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Greenville.

JOHN H. SERVISS.

John H. Serviss, the well-known county agent for Montcalm county, former city clerk of Greenville, this county, and for years prominently connected with the commercial interests of that town, is a native son of the state of Michigan, having been born on a farm in West Bloomfield township, Oakland county, on March 21, 1859, son of Charles and Nancy J. (Riley) Serviss, the former a native of New York state and the latter a native of Michigan, who later became prominent residents of Greenville, where their last days were spent.

Charles Serviss was about seventeen years old when he came to Michigan with his parents, the family settling in West Bloomfield township, Oakland county, and on a farm there Charles Serviss grew to manhood. He was about nineteen years old when the gold rush to California set in, fol-

lowing the discovery of gold in 1849, and he joined a party of other adventurous spirits in a trip to California, but at the end of two years of rather trying experiences in the gold camps of the West, he returned to his home in Oakland county and there married Nancy J. Riley, who was born in that county, daughter of John Riley, a pioneer farmer of that section, and a native of Ireland, whose interesting history is set out in a sketch relating to his grandson, C. W. Riley, of Greenville, presented elsewhere in this volume.

In 1861, Charles Serviss and his family moved from Oakland county to this county and for a couple of years or thereabout, Mr. Serviss operated a saw-mill at Langston. He then moved to Greenville, where he clerked in the Shearer hardware store for several years, after which he engaged in the retail meat business and the general live-stock trade, in association with a firm, doing business under the name of Serviss Brothers & Riley, and was thus actively engaged the rest of his life, becoming in that time one of the best-known stockmen in this section. Charles Serviss died in 1881 and his widow survived him for more than twenty years, her death occurring in 1903. They were the parents of four children, namely: Jennie M., who married Ransom T. King, of Greenville, both now deceased; John H., the subject of this sketch; Warren B., superintendent and general manager of the Valley City Telephone Company at Saginaw, this state, and Fred, who died at the age of seventeen years.

John H. Serviss was only two or three years old when his parents settled at Greenville and he grew up in that pleasant little city, receiving his education in the Greenville schools and becoming familiar with the details of his father's business, thus becoming an expert judge of live stock and the retail meat trade. He married when he was twenty-one years old and for a number of years engaged in the meat business for himself, later forming a partnership in the same line with C. W. Riley, and was thus engaged for three or four years, at the end of which time the firm was dissolved and Mr. Serviss then served a six-years' term as deputy postmaster at Greenville. At the end of that official connection he became connected with the Hollow Blast Grate Company and was thus employed for two years. He then organized the Greenville Floral Company and did business along that line for a year, after which he entered the P. D. Edsall book store and was there engaged for eight years, at the end of which time he received his appointment as county agent under the new law, his appointment from Governor Ferris being dated July 1, 1915, since which time he

has been devoting his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to the exacting duties of that important office, performing a most valuable and acceptable service in behalf of the common welfare.

On January 12, 1881, John H. Serviss was united in marriage to Amelia E. Blanck, daughter of Dr. Andrew Blanck, a well-known pioneer physician of Livingston county, this state, and to this union four children have been born, as follow: Charles A., who is engaged in the automobile business at Aberdeen, South Dakota; Rufus J., who died at the age of eleven years; Helen E., who married Henry E. Kieft, of Greenville, and George R., who is operating a garage at Lakeview. Mr. and Mrs. Serviss ever have taken their proper part in the general social activities of the city in which they live and are held in high regard by their many friends.

Mr. Serviss is a Democrat and from the days of his youth has given close attention to local political affairs. In 1884 he was elected city clerk of Greenville, and served very acceptably in that office for one term. He later was elected to a seat in the city council and gave equally attentive service in the public behalf in that capacity. Mr. Serviss is a member of the Greenville lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

ELLIS W. RANNEY.

Among the prominent citizens and leading business men of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, few have taken a more important place or have served their community more usefully than has Ellis W. Ranney, who was born in Belding, Ionia county, Michigan, on February 23, 1878, a son of Fred E. and Mary (Ellis) Ranney.

Ellis W. Ranney received his early education in the public schools of Belding, continuing his preparatory schooling until he graduated from the Belding high school, in 1896. After that time, Mr. Ranney became a student at the Michigan Agricultural College, an institution from which he graduated, with the degree of Master of Science, in 1900. Following the completion of his education, Mr. Ranney engaged in farming, for one year and then he entered the Ranney Refrigerator Company, a concern which he served as general utility man, until 1908, when Mr. Ranney became secretary and treasurer of the corporation, an office which he now occupies. In addition to his connection with the Ranney Refrigerator Company, Mr.

Ranney is a director of the Moore Plow & Implement Company, and he is interested in a dairy farm, at Belding, Michigan.

In 1900, Ellis W. Ranney was married to Tressie A. Bristol, who is a graduate of the Almont high school and of the Michigan Agricultural College. For one year she was an instructor in the latter institution.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ranney have been born four children: Mary E., Frederick B., June E. and Ruth L., all of whom are now attending the Greenville public schools.

Mr. Ranney has not been very active in the political life of Greenville and Montcalm county, but has served as president of the Greenville Republican Club, and he is a man who is found in the front ranks of all movements having for their object the advancement of the community interests. Mr. Ranney is now serving as president of the Greenville school board, during his term of office having done much for the betterment of school conditions in this community.

Fraternally, Mr. Ranney is one of the most prominent men of Greenville, or the locality, he being a member of Belding Lodge No. 155, Free and Accepted Masons; of Greenville Chapter No. 96, Royal Arch Masons; Ionia Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masons; a member of Ionia Commandery No. 11, and of the consistory and Shrine, at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Ranney is also a member of the Belding Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

JAMES K. TRAIN.

James K. Train, postmaster of Edmore and former sheriff of Montcalm county, one of the best-known and most popular citizens of this county, is a native-born Hoosier, having been born in Steuben county, Indiana, April 29, 1847, son of Stephen C. and Caroline (Reynolds) Train, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Michigan, who left Indiana in 1847, when their son, James K., was about one month old, and came to Michigan, settling in Cass county, where they established a substantial home on a farm and it was there that James K. Train grew to manhood. Stephen C. Train and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom two are now living, Frank, of Cheboygan county, this state, and James K., the subject of this biographical sketch, the others having been Marquis D., who died in 1862, while serving as a soldier in the Union army during the



MR. AND MRS. JAMES K. TRAIN.



Civil War; Mrs. Jennie C. Osgood, who died in Colorado, and Eugene F., Laura, Mabel and Marie.

On September 11, 1863, he then being but sixteen years of age, James K. Train enlisted as a recruit in Company D, Sixth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Civil War, and was mustered out at Greenville, Louisiana, on August 20, 1865. His regiment was attached to the Department of the Gulf and he joined it at Port Hudson, Louisiana, in January, 1864, being a participant in several skirmishes between that time and the close of the war. After being mustered out of the service at the close of the war, the regiment returned to Jackson, Michigan, where it was discharged. Mr. Train then returned to Cass county, but his parents meanwhile having moved to Barry county, he presently joined them there and on Thanksgiving Day, 1868, was married, after which he settled on a farm of forty acres in Orangeville township, that county, where he lived for three years. In 1871 he moved to Ionia, which had been his wife's home, and there engaged in the drayage business, at the same time keeping a boarding house for the benefit of workmen employed on the erection of the new prison at that place, and there he made his home until September, 1878, at which time he came to Edmore, Montcalm county, which has been his home practically since then. He engaged in the drayage business at Edmore and was thus engaged until the time of his election to the office of sheriff in 1896, a period of nearly eighteen years. During his term of service as sheriff Mr. Train made his home at Stanton, the county seat, but at the end of that four-year period returned to Edmore and has since then made his home on his fine farm of eighty acres at the edge of the village.

Mr. Train is an active Republican and ever since settling at Edmore has been a prominent figure in local politics. In addition to his term of service as county sheriff, he has served in most all of the township offices in Home township, having been supervisor for nearly five years, and in other ways has done his full part toward advancing the general interests of that vicinage. On June 14, 1901, Mr. Train received his commission as postmaster of Edmore and has ever since held that office, his administration of the duties thereof having given general satisfaction to all concerned.

On November 28, 1868, at Ionia, this state, James K. Train was united in marriage to Eliza Jane Martin, who was born in the province of New Brunswick, Canada, January 22, 1849, daughter of Robert and Milo Frances (Gray) Martin, the former of whom was born in Scotland in 1795 and the latter, in Connecticut, in 1806. Robert Martin migrated from Scotland

to New Brunswick when a young man and there he married, all his children being born there. His wife had gone to that province from Connecticut with her parents during the War of 1812, she then having been but six years of age, and had grown to womanhood there. In the spring of 1849, their last-born child, Eliza Jane, then being but two months of age, Robert Martin and his wife and children came to Michigan and settled on a farm in Kalamazoo county, where they made their home for years, and it was there that Mrs. Train received her early education, in a log school house. Later her parents moved to Barry county, where Mr. Martin died in May, 1871, at the age of seventy-three years. His widow continued to live on the old home farm for a while and then made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Train, at Edmore, where her last days were spent, her death occurring in November, 1891, at the age of eighty-five. Robert Martin and wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom but two are now living, Mrs. Frances M. Cory, ninth in order of birth, who lives at Battle Creek, widow of Barney F. Cory, and Mrs. Train, the last born, the others having been Isaiah, William, George (who died while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil War), Robert, Mrs. Margaret Russell, Harriet, Mrs. Mary Bostwick, Reuben, Nathaniel J. and Nason. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were earnest members of the Congregational church and their children were reared in that faith. Robert Martin was a staunch Republican, ever taking an active part in local political affairs after moving to Michigan, but never was an aspirant for office.

To James K. and Eliza Jane (Martin) Train six children have been born, namely: Mark D., born in 1870, now living in Fargo, North Dakota, married Laura D. Colburn and has five children, all sons, Russell Alger, Mark Peter, Kenneth, Paul and David; Lee, who manages the home farm for his father, married Mabel Liscomb and has six children, four sons and two daughters, James K., Keith D., Carlton, Theresa M., Mina B. and Mark D.; Calvin K., now living at Flint, this state, married Blanche Minard and has four children, Nina E., Berkley M., Helen and Ruth Arlene; Mabel, who married Harry O. Shrodes, of Lansing, this state, and has two children, Glen Train and Harry Blaine; John C., who died at the age of twenty years, and Ora E., who died at the age of nineteen. Mr. and Mrs. Train ever have taken a proper part in the social life of their community and they and their family are held in high esteem. Mr. Train is an active member of J. T. Barrett Post No. 180, Grand Army of the Republic; a charter member of the Edmore lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,

instituted in 1875; a member of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at Edmore and of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Ionia, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

R. D. McNUTT.

R. D. McNutt, county surveyor and a prominent citizen of Stanton, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Greenville, this county, on April 27, 1890, a son of Lee E. and Hattie J. (Ball) McNutt, natives of Michigan, the former born at Conway, Livingston county, on May 22, 1861, a son of Harvey L. and Mary A. McNutt; the latter in Luce county, on November 3, 1860.

Lee E. McNutt received his early education in the schools of his native county, after which he, when nine years of age, came with his parents to Greenville, where he completed his education at the Greenville high school. Later, the elder McNutt moved to Stanton, where he now lives and engages in the duties of a mail carrier.

On December 25, 1885, Lee E. McNutt was married at Fowlerville, Michigan, to Hattie J. Ball, and they are the parents of one son, R. D., who was born on April 27, 1890. Mr. McNutt and his wife are affiliated with Congregational church, at Stanton, and are well-known and appreciated workers of this congregation. Fraternally, Lee E. McNutt is a member of Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Stanton, and also is a member of Lodge No. 1520, Ancient Order of Gleaners, at Stanton.

R. D. McNutt was brought from Greenville to Stanton, Montcalm county, when he was but one year of age and lived on the home farm, receiving his early education in the common schools of his neighborhood. He later became a student at the Stanton high school, graduating in 1907, after which he entered the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing, receiving his degree as a civil engineer, in 1912. In 1910, Mr. McNutt began his career as an assistant surveyor with D. C. Crawford, then serving as county civil engineer of Ionia county, Mr. McNutt being engaged in this capacity until 1912, when he became deputy surveyor for Ionia county, an office which he occupied until 1914, when he was elected as county surveyor for Montcalm county.

As an engineer and surveyor, Mr. McNutt has made an enviable record. During the year 1912, he had complete charge of all the drainage work done

in Clinton county, Michigan; during the summer of 1913, he had charge of the preliminary survey for the interurban lines being constructed from Grand Lodge to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and since that time Mr. McNutt has more than fifty miles of state ward road surveys to his credit.

R. D. McNutt is a member of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners and is a member of the Michigan Engineering Society. Fraternally, Mr. McNutt is a member of Stanton Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons; of Stanton Chapter No. 110, Royal Arch Masons; Ionia Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masons, and Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar. As a student Mr. McNutt also served as second lieutenant of the Michigan Agricultural College military band. While Mr. McNutt is not a member of any church, he is a regular attendant of the Congregational church. In politics, Mr. McNutt is a Republican.

REV. CHARLES PARKER.

No history of Montcalm county would be complete without fitting mention of the life and services of the late Rev. Charles Parker, a pioneer of the Coral neighborhood and for years active in all affairs pertaining to the advancement of that community. Though Canadian born, Charles Parker ever claimed to be a loyal citizen of the United States, his father, Charles Parker, a Vermonter, who was a soldier of the War of 1812, never having renounced his allegiance to this country after making his home in Canada at the close of that war.

Charles Parker was born at Norwood, Ontario, in 1823, the eldest of twelve children born to his parents. His early childhood was spent in Peterboro county, Ontario, and he early became a master hand in the use of tools, becoming a very proficient cabinetmaker and pattern maker. In 1845 he married Isabella D. Bowes, who was born in Haldeman township, Ontario, March 14, 1824, daughter of Robert and Margaret (Ford) Bowes, the former of whom, a native of England, was a British soldier during the War of 1812, and the latter a native of County Tyrone, Ireland. After his marriage Charles Parker worked as a pattern maker for several years at Newcastle, Ontario, after which he returned to Norwood, where he set up a shop and was engaged as a cabinetmaker until early in 1861, at which time, attracted by glowing reports that then were being sent out from this section of Michigan regarding the fine land that could be secured here for

the asking, he came to Michigan and picked out an "eighty" in what is now the Coral neighborhood, but which then was an unbroken wilderness, there having been but two or three settlers in that part of the county before his time. He built a twelve-by-sixteen log cabin on his location and the next spring returned to Canada and brought back to this county his wife and six small children, establishing them in the humble home in the wilderness. While developing his home tract, which he bought from the railroad company for twelve dollars and fifty cents an acre, Mr. Parker also engaged in the lumber industry and it was not long until he was one of the best-known lumbermen in this section of the state, his operations being confined to the logging department of the business, his logging camp being the beginning of the village of Coral, a name which Mr. Parker selected for the place because it was easily written. In 1870, when the railroad finally was constructed through that section, it was through Mr. Parker's representations that the survey was changed to take in Coral, in consideration of which concession on the part of the company, Mr. Parker agreed to secure a free right-of-way through Maple Valley township and he succeeded in securing the same at the merely nominal cost of one hundred and fifty dollars, only two of the settlers having held out for a cash consideration. About 1868 Mr. Parker donated the site for the cemetery at Coral. Mr. Parker was an ordained minister of the Gospel and preached most of the funerals in the entire neighborhood. As a skilled cabinetmaker it also fell upon him to make most of the coffins in which the pioneers were buried. During the early sixties he preached nearly every Sunday, having a circuit which comprised the West neighborhood in the morning, the Parker school house in the afternoon and Cowden Lake in the evening. Mr. Parker also officiated at most of the early weddings and there was no man in that section in pioneer days who took a more prominent or useful part in bringing about proper social conditions during the formative period of that now prosperous and well-established community, than did he. In 1873 Charles Parker left his farm and moved to the town of Coral, where for a time he engaged in the real-estate business, but this not proving satisfactory, he returned to the farm in 1875, enlarged his land holdings there and that fall erected a fine new home. In 1878, Mr. Parker's eldest son, J. B. Parker, made a trip to Oregon and from the fine report he brought back with him in 1879, Mr. Parker decided to transfer his holdings and his activities to the then rapidly-developing Willamette Valley. He sold everything he had in this county and in May, 1880, went to Oregon. After looking over the Wil-

lamette Valley for some time he bought twelve hundred acres on the river of that name, near the town of Independence, settled his three eldest sons on that place and he and the remainder of the family made their home in the town of Independence, where Mr. and Mrs. Parker spent the remainder of their days, Mrs. Parker dying on April 14, 1887, and Mr. Parker surviving until January 10, 1889.

To Charles and Isabella D. (Bowes) Parker were born nine children, five sons and four daughters, one daughter and two sons having been born to them after they settled in Maple Valley, this county. Of these nine children but four are now surviving, Jabez Bunting Parker, vice-president of the Farmers State Bank of Independence, Oregon, who has made his home on the great Parker farm near that town since the year 1880; Charles A., a minister of the Gospel at Oconto, Wisconsin; Frederick W., a prosperous farmer and stockman at Cunningham, Washington, and Clifford T., dredge superintendent at Natoma, California.

JAMES ALBERT DAILEY.

James Albert Dailey is one of the representative agriculturists of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is employed as a rural mail carrier on route 1. His farm consists of one hundred acres located southwest of the town of Fenwick. He was born on June 30, 1876, in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and is the son of James H. and Jennie (Borden) Dailey. James H. Dailey was born on February 20, 1845, in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and was the son of Allen W. and Sarah (Lounsberry) Dailey. Allen W. Dailey was born on September 15, 1811, in Poultney township, Steuben county, New York, and was the son of James and Margaret (Henderson) Dailey. James Dailey was born in Ireland, on June 8, 1767, and immigrated to Steuben county, New York, in 1787, where he built and operated the first saw-mill, west of Lake Keokuk, of that state. Sarah (Lounsberry) Dailey, wife of Allen W. Dailey, was born in Penn Yan, New York, and was the daughter of Jonathan Lounsberry, who was a member of the Dutch Quaker families of New York.

Jennie (Borden) Dailey, wife of James H. Dailey, was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, on August 6, 1848, and was the daughter of parents who died when she was a small child. She was married to James H. Dailey in 1871, remaining in Washtenaw county, Michigan, until 1886, at

which time he sold the farm and removed to Montcalm county. He then bought the present place on which he lived until 1911. His wife died on March 26, 1907. They were the parents of two children: Cora, wife of Chauncey Rinker, and James Albert.

James Albert Dailey received his education in the district schools of Montcalm county, Michigan, and remained at home until his marriage to Lula Sutton, on April 26, 1905. She is the daughter of Lewis Cullou and Minnie (Otto) Sutton. Lewis Cullou Sutton was born in Hagerstown, New Jersey, removing to the western country for his health when a young man. He located immediately in Washtenaw county, Michigan, very near to Ann Arbor. He was of English descent. Minnie (Otto) Sutton was born in Berlin, Germany, and immigrated to America with her parents when she was but five years of age. They also located near Ann Arbor, Michigan. She and her husband were the parents of two children: Lula and Esther. The husband died in 1893 and his widow still survives.

To the union of James Albert Dailey and wife has been born one child, Helen Jane. James Albert Dailey is a Republican in his political faith. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church of Fenwick, Michigan, also of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. He is a member of Fenwick Lodge No. 466, Knights of the Maccabees, and his wife is a member of the sister lodge.

H. W. TAYLOR.

H. W. Taylor, ex-county clerk and a prominent merchant of Sheridan, was born on July 20, 1880, in Fairplain township, Montcalm county and is the son of Hiram and Frances (Galoup) Taylor.

Hiram Taylor lived with his parents, near Toronto, Canada, until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he with his brothers and sisters came to Montcalm county. They worked for different persons in the lumber and shingle mills and on the farms, until some time later when Hiram bought a farm in Fairplain township, and here they lived until 1883, when they moved to Bushnell township where he still lives. His wife died on February 13, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were the parents of two children: H. W. and Otto, the latter of whom lives on the home farm.

Frances Galoup was the daughter of Austin P. and Betsy (Blennett) Galoup, and was a native of Montcalm county, where she grew to womanhood and received her education in the schools of her home township.

Here she met and married Hiram Taylor and here she reared her family and lived her life.

H. W. Taylor was reared on the farm and remained at home, completing the common-school course in his township and the four-year high school course at Sheridan. Mr. Taylor is one who believes that a good education is an asset to the successful farmer or the keen business man.

On September 6, 1900, Mr. Taylor was married to Nellie M. Greenloe, the daughter of Charles C. and Alice (McDonald) Greenloe, whose people were natives of Ohio, and who in an early day came to Michigan where they were active and successful in the affairs of life.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Taylor lived on a farm in Evergreen township, for two years, and then returned to a farm in Bushnell township, where they lived but a short time when they came to Sheridan, where Mr. Taylor engaged in business with R. E. Lower in the spring of 1912. During the same year he was elected county clerk and after serving his term of two years, having refused a second term, he returned to Sheridan where he has since been in business. At the present time he is a valuable member of the village council.

Fraternally, Mr. Taylor is a member of Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, having taken the chapter degrees. He is also an active member of Camp No. 7312, Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have no family, the only child born to them having died in infancy.

WILLIAM E. RASMUSSEN.

Sheriff William E. Rasmussen, of Montcalm county, one of the most popular officials in the court house at Stanton, is a native son of this county, having been born on a farm in the Gowan neighborhood on August 5, 1881, youngest of the six children of August and Marie (Sand) Rasmussen, pioneers of that section, and among the very earliest Danish settlers in Montcalm county, the former of whom is still living on the farm he cleared back in the middle fifties, and the latter of whom died in July, 1913, at the age of sixty-seven years.

August Rasmussen was born at Soeby, Denmark, son of Rasmus and Bolly Jorgensen, both natives of Denmark, the former of whom spent all his life in his native country, a farmer, but the latter came to this country in 1856, the year after her son, August, settled in this county and spent her

last days at the home of the latter in Montcalm township, where she lived to be past eighty years of age. She was the mother of seven children, of whom August was the eldest. August Rasmussen grew up in his native village and learned the trade of wagon-making. He married Anna Petersen, by whom he had two children, William and Laura; both died in this county. Mrs. Anna Rasmussen died in 1879, and Mr. Rasmussen married, secondly, Marie Sand, who was born at Laurvig, Norway, eldest daughter of Hans Sand and wife, natives of that same country.

In 1855, immediately following his first marriage, Mr. Rasmussen came to the United States. They landed at the port of New York and proceeded straightway to Michigan, settling in the timber district in Montcalm township, this county, where August Rasmussen began working in the lumber camps. Presently he bought a forty-acre tract of timber land, which he proceeded to clear and on that place he and his wife established their permanent home, quickly becoming influential in the pioneer life of the community. As he cleared his land and began general farming, August Rasmussen prospered and presently was able to buy more land until he was the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and ninety acres, which he still owns, though for the past fifteen years or more he has been practically retired from the active labors of the farm, his sons, Frank and William E., managing the same. Though nearly ninety years of age, Mr. Rasmussen is still physically vigorous and alert, as spry as many a man twenty years younger. He and his wife were among the very earliest of the Danish settlers in this part of the state and the good word they sent back to the old home was the means of inducing many of their former neighbors in Denmark to come to Montcalm, they therefore ever having been regarded as the leaders of the considerable Danish colony in this county.

August and Marie (Sand) Rasmussen were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Frank, who lives on the old home place in Montcalm township; Emil, deceased; Emil, of Cato township, this county; Oscar, of Gowan, and Edwin L., also of Gowan. Mr. Rasmussen is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church, as was his wife, and took a warm interest in the affairs of that church. Mr. Rasmussen is a Republican and for years served his home township in the capacity of trustee, rendering valuable service to the community in that connection. He also was a member of the school board for years and did much to advance the cause of the common schools thereabout.

William E. Rasmussen was reared on the home farm in Montcalm

township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, supplementing the same by a course in Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, after which he went to Grand Rapids, where for a time he was employed in a furniture factory. He then returned home and for some time was employed in the woods and lumber camps of that neighborhood, making his home with his parents. During his residence in Grand Rapids, Mr. Rasmussen served for one year as a member of the police force of that city and after his return home was made deputy sheriff of Montcalm county, serving in that official capacity for four years, at the end of which time, in 1912, he was elected sheriff of the county on the Republican ticket and so faithfully did he perform the exacting and important duties of that office that he was re-elected in 1914 and is now serving his second term, making his home at Stanton.

On June 13, 1914, William E. Rasmussen was united in marriage to Ella L. Palmer, who was born at Stanton, this county, daughter of L. C. and Jessie (Luce) Palmer, the former a native of New York and the latter of this county. L. C. Palmer for years has been a well-known lawyer at Stanton and he and his wife are the parents of five children, of whom Mrs. Rasmussen is the fourth in order of birth, the others being Earl, Carl, Harry and Grace. To Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen one child has been born, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen are members of the Methodist church at Stanton and are prominently connected with the social and religious life of that city, being held in high esteem by their many friends. Mr. Rasmussen is a Mason and is also a member of the Grange and of the Gleaners, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

GEORGE C. PREVETTE.

George C. Prevette, undertaker and dealer in general house furnishings at Stanton, this county, is a native of England, who came to America in 1888, at once locating in Stanton, where he still resides and where he has established himself so firmly in the commercial life of that thriving little city that he is generally recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive figures in the commercial life of Montcalm county. He was born in Eastbourne, Sussex county, England, on October 9, 1861, son of Charles and Catherine (Cheale) Prevette, both natives of that same county, who were the parents of the following children: Katie, who is the wife of

Fred Cheale, of Lewes, Sussex, England; George C., the immediate subject of this sketch; Edward, of Eastbourne, England; Alfred and William (twins), also of Eastbourne; Edith, wife of Edward Butler, of London, England, and four who died in youth.

Charles Prevette was the son of James Prevette and wife, of Crawley Downs, England, who were the parents of four sons, Charles, Moses, James and George. Charles Prevette was reared as a farmer and later became a painter, decorator and contractor at Eastbourne, where he died in 1895, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a prominent Odd Fellow and at one time was the oldest member of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows. He and his wife were members of the Church of England and their children were reared in accordance with the tenets of that faith. Mrs. Prevette died in 1911, at the age of seventy-three. Her parents were natives of Lewes.

George C. Prevette was reared at Eastbourne, receiving his education in the schools of that place, and in his youth learned the carpenter and cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed there, becoming a very skilled workman. On June 2, 1882, Mr. Prevette was united in marriage to Elizabeth Duke, who was born in Sussex, daughter of Edwin and Eliza Duke, and in 1888 they came to the United States, proceeding directly to this state, locating at Stanton, where they have resided ever since. For five years after his arrival at Stanton, Mr. Prevette was manager of the establishment of A. Barber, furniture and undertaking, and after that was associated in business with H. H. Howe for five years, at the end of which time, in 1897, he became sole proprietor of the business and as such has conducted the same ever since, having made a great success of the business.

Mr. and Mrs. Prevette have two children, Gertrude, who was graduated from the Mt. Pleasant Normal School and is now teaching the McBride school, and Howard, who is a student of the Ferris Institute. Mr. and Mrs. Prevette are members of the Congregational church, of which he is a deacon, and both are held in very high esteem in church and social circles in Stanton.

Mr. Prevette is a Republican and was chairman of the board of public works in 1891. He is a Mason and has attained to the commandery in that order. For two years he was master of Stanton Star Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, and is a member of the chapter of that order. His membership in the Knights Templar is with the commandery at Ionia. Mr. Prevette is an excellent business man and a public-spirited citizen and enjoys the full confidence of commercial circles generally hereabout.

JACOB M. NEFF.

Jacob M. Neff, well-known banker at McBrides, this county, where he is associated in business with his cousin, Sherman E. Neff, son of the late Frederick Neff, is a native-born son of Michigan, having been born in the village of Muir, in the neighboring county of Ionia, July 8, 1878, son of Louis and Laney (Martin) Neff, who later became prominent and influential residents of Montcalm county, the former of whom, long recognized as one of the strongest factors in the development of the material resources of this section, died in 1915, and the latter of whom is still living at her pleasant home at McBrides, enjoying many evidences of the esteem in which she is held by the entire community.

Louis Neff was an Alsatian, having been born in Alsace, then a province of France, on May 8, 1840, son of George and Marianne (Barronsville) Neff, the former of whom was born in the city of Paris. When Louis Neff was about nine months old his parents came to the United States, settling in Boston, where they remained for four or five years. George Neff was a skilled musician and played in a circus band, also being a composer of considerable note. On leaving Boston he and his family moved to Ohio, locating at Grafton, in Lorain county, where George Neff bought a small farm and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Though an excellent musician, George Neff was not a good farmer and his family of ten sons and two daughters were reared amid rather straitened circumstances. Six of these sons came to Michigan, settling in this part of the state in the early sixties and all became prominent and influential in their respective communities, George Neff, still living at Sheridan, this county; Louis, a prominent resident of McBrides until his death in 1915; Frederick, also a prominent resident of McBrides until his death in December, 1914; John, of Mt. Pleasant; Jacob, also of Mt. Pleasant, and Wendell, who lives at Rosebush, in Isabelle county.

It was about 1866 that Louis Neff settled at Muir, in the neighboring county of Ionia, where he started a small boot and shoe business. He was a skilled craftsman in that line and it was not long before he had worked up a good trade, the demand for custom-made boots in those days making his a profitable industry. In 1868 he married Laney Martin, who was born in Clinton county, this state, daughter of Anthony and Sophia (Wirt) Martin, pioneers of that county. Anthony Martin was a native of Germany, who had come to the United States when twelve years of age with

his parents, Nicholas Martin and wife, who settled in Clinton county in 1837, that section of Michigan at that time being a wilderness, and there Anthony Martin has lived ever since, a life-long farmer, being now past ninety years of age. He was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and was severely wounded during the battle of Gettysburg. His first wife died when her daughter, Sophia, was six years old, and he married, secondly, Mary Martin, a native of Clinton county, who was ever a devoted mother to her stepdaughter.

When he was married, Louis Neff was the possessor of about sixty dollars worth of shoemaker's tools, leather and supplies and had his small shop at Muir. His wife was about equally well supplied with the goods of this world, but both possessed far greater riches in their stout hearts and willing hands and they presently began to prosper, as they deserved to prosper. They lived economically and Mrs. Neff kept boarders as a means of "helping out" until they got a start and ever was a devoted, competent and valuable helpmate to her husband. They planned carefully, used foresight and native prudence, saved their meager profits during their "day of small things," avoided going into debt, even declining credit or loans when offered, and in due time acquired a competence, long being regarded as among the most substantial families in this county. Some years after settling at Muir, Louis Neff moved to Dallas, now known as Fowler, and there opened a general store, in connection with which he also conducted a shoe shop.

After being in business there for about two years Louis Neff moved, about the year 1879, to McBrides, where he and his brothers, John and Jacob, entered into a partnership for the manufacture of shingles and were thus engaged, gradually enlarging into a general lumber business, until in the early nineties, when, the timber thereabout having by that time become exhausted, they discontinued the industry. Louis Neff then, in association with his brother, Frederick, who also had long been engaged in the lumber business hereabout, and his son-in-law, N. J. Dolph, established a shingle-mill in the upper peninsula, his son, George N., and N. J. Dolph operating the mill, Louis Neff continuing his residence at his established home at McBrides. About the year 1900 the shingle industry in the upper peninsula was abandoned and in 1904 the brothers Neff, Louis and Frederick, in association with their respective sons, Jacob M. and Sherman E., started a private bank at McBrides, which concern ever since has been successfully maintained, long having been regarded as one of the most substantial and

well-established financial concerns in this part of the state. In addition to his extensive lumber and banking connections, Louis Neff also was a large landowner, having been the owner, at the time of his death, on October 25, 1915, of about one thousand acres of land in this county, a half section of excellent land in Ferris township and the balance in Day township, besides a half section of land in the neighborhood of Seattle, Washington.

To Louis and Lancy (Martin) Neff four children were born, three sons and one daughter, namely: Luella, who married N. J. Dolph, formerly a well-known resident of this county, now a prosperous real-estate broker at Seattle, Washington; George L., who also is engaged in the real-estate business at Seattle, married Lettie Booth and has two children, Louis and Grace; Fred S., a progressive farmer living about three-fourths of a mile east of McBrides, who married Eliza Hopkins and has three daughters, Nina, Mary and Lena, and Jacob M., cashier of Neff's Bank at McBrides.

Jacob M. Neff was little more than a year old when his parents settled at McBrides and he grew up in that pleasant village and has made his home there ever since. He early acquired a thorough acquaintance with his father's extensive business affairs and gradually came to take his father's place in the management of the same, Louis Neff having relinquished, during his later years, much of the detail of management to his son, who early displayed a large capacity for business. In addition to his exacting duties in the Neff Bank, Mr. Neff has other extensive interests in his care and is generally regarded as one of the most active and progressive business men in this section, enjoying the full confidence and respect of banking and commercial circles hereabout.

On December 11, 1907, Jacob M. Neff was united in marriage to Maud Allchin, who was born on a farm east of McBrides, in this county, daughter of Burdette and Mary (Morse) Allchin, the former of whom was born at Fenwick, this county, March 8, 1856, son of Edward and Elizabeth (Curtis) Allchin, who settled there about 1855, having come to this county from the state of New York, and early became recognized as among the leading pioneers of that section. Edward Allchin entered a tract of government land in what is now the Fenwick neighborhood, Ionia, twelve miles away, then being the nearest trading point, and there he and his wife established a substantial home and spent the rest of their lives. On that pioneer farm Burdette Allchin grew to manhood. He married Mary Morse, who was born at Portland, this state, daughter of Thomas and Christine (Sabin) Morse, both natives of Germany, who had settled in the Portland neighbor-

hood in pioneer days. In 1877, shortly after his marriage, Burdette Allchin engaged in the lumbering business just north of Stanton and was thus engaged, making his home there, until 1887, in which year he bought a farm between Edmore and McBrides and there he spent the rest of his life, becoming a prosperous farmer, his death occurring in 1903. His widow still lives on the home farm in section 2 of Day township. Burdette Allchin was a Mason and a member of the Knights of Maccabees, in the affairs of both of which orders he took a warm interest. His father, Edward Allchin, was an honored soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. Mrs. Neff was reared on the home farm in Day township, finishing her schooling in the Edmore high school, and became quite an accomplished musician.

To Jacob M. and Maud (Allchin) Neff one child has been born, a son, Clayton Burdette, born on September 30, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Neff are devoted members of the Catholic church and take a warm interest in all good works in and about McBrides, being held in high regard by all thereabout. Mr. Neff is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

LEWIS E. BRACEY.

Lewis E. Bracey, for the past eleven years a prominent and active physician of Sheridan, was born in Greenville on March 25, 1872, and is the son of Isaac and Alice (Hyde) Bracey.

Isaac Bracey, a native of New York state, settled at Greenville when a young man of thirty. He devoted his time and attention to farming and the lumber business.

Alice (Hyde) Bracey was a native of the state of New York and came to Montcalm county with an older married sister. They settled near Greenville, where she met and married Mr. Bracey. To this union eight children were born, four of whom are now living: Ha, the wife of Willis Williams, of Greenville; Clarence, on the Bracey Brothers farm in Evergreen township; Clifford, whose home is in Greenville, and Lewis E.

Lewis E. Bracey remained at home until he was thirty years of age, assisting on the farm of his father. After having completed the common and high school course at Greenville he studied two years at Ann Arbor where he devoted his time to medicine. He then was out of school for a year, after which he entered the Detroit School of Medicine, and after two

years was graduated from that institution in 1905. In the fall of the same year he located in Sheridan, where he has since that time been a successful physician.

Lewis E. Bracey was married on December 26, 1900, to Elizabeth Edsall, the adopted daughter of James and Alwilda (Garrett) Edsall. Alwilda Garrett was a native of Oakland county, while James Edsall was born at Elmira, New York, and later settled in Oakland county, where he and Alwilda Garrett were married.

Elizabeth Edsall was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Edsall soon after their marriage. She was a native of Trenton, Gibson county, Tennessee. The parents moved to Kansas where they died, leaving three children. Two of the children were adopted by one family and the baby by another.

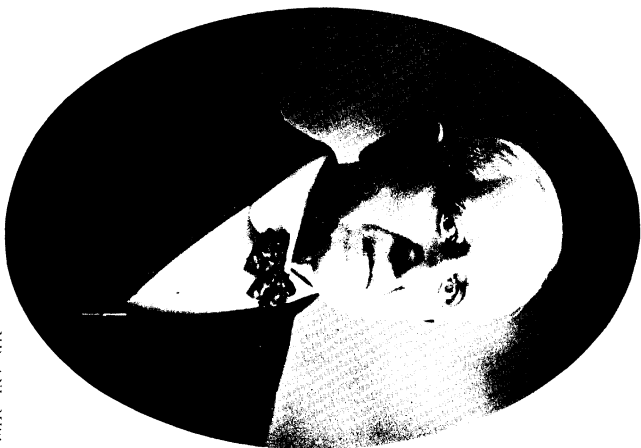
Doctor and Mrs. Bracey have no children of their own, but they have adopted one, Lee Edward Bracey, he receiving the same kind and careful training as one of their own.

Doctor Bracey is a member of the county, state and American Medical Societies, taking much interest in all the activities of these organizations that tend toward his improvement as a physician. He is also the president of the Montcalm county pension board and his work has been satisfactory to all concerned.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CADWELL.

George Washington Cadwell, a retired merchant of Carson City, was born in Watertown, New York, in 1839 and is the son of Almeron C. and Christena C. (Rich) Cadwell. He arrived at Carson City, Montcalm county, on May 7, 1888, to act as cashier of the savings bank and has been connected with the interests of the town since that time.

Almeron C. Cadwell was married to Christena C. Rich in Prescott, Canada, she being a native of that country, while he was a native of Vermont. The Cadwell family later moved to Pennsylvania and then to Painted Post, New York. At the age of fifteen, the son George left home and rode to Detroit, experiencing the hardships of winter travel in those days, having been snow bound, for forty-eight hours, at London, Canada. From Detroit he proceeded to Ionia, by way of Lansing and Eagle, the entire journey being one of great hardship. He remained at Ionia for ten years, where he clerked for his uncle, Hon. Hampton Rich, who did a general mercantile business in connection with the handling of grain and lumber. Mr. Rich was



MIL. AND MRS. GEORGE W. CADWELL.



the brother of Mrs. Cadwell, and was one of the founders and the first president of the Pere Marquette railroad. He was at one time a state senator and very active in state politics; he was a cousin of Governor Rich, who was a second cousin of George W. Cadwell.

The year after George W. came to Ionia his parents came and took up their residence in the town and later the father became a partner with Mr. Rich. Later, the father and son were engaged in business as partners for three years in the town and then removed their store to Portland where they remained for ten years. At this time the son retired from the mercantile business and engaged in agriculture on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Silawa township, Ionia county. The farm was practically undeveloped, with but forty acres cleared and the balance wild. With the assistance of an additional man and two yoke of oxen, Mr. Cadwell soon caused a wonderful transformation in the place and in a short time, much of the farm was improved and under cultivation. The second year he traded the farm for one of one hundred and sixty acres in Lyons township, which he later sold to his father, after which he moved to Lyons, where he clerked in the drug store owned by his father-in-law, Dr. David Kelley. Later, the two became partners in the ownership of one of the finest drug stores in Lyons. This partnership continued until 1888, when Mr. Cadwell was elected a cashier of the Carson City Savings Bank and he became a resident of that place. After two years he purchased a stock of drugs, school books and groceries and for the next two years, in connection with his duties as cashier, did a most successful mercantile business. After resigning his position as cashier, he devoted his energies to the development of his fast-growing business. On his retirement from active business, in 1896, he was the owner of many substantial business blocks in his home town, as well as at Crystal.

In 1864 Mr. Cadwell was married to Frances E. Kelley, a native of Newfield, New York, and a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Horton) Kelley. Mr. Kelley was a native of Tompkins county, New York, where he was born in 1816. He studied medicine in Geneva College and at Cleveland, Ohio, after which he practiced at Adrian before he took up his work at Lyons. He was a captain of a company in the Civil War for over two years and retired owing to poor health.

Mrs. Cadwell was born in 1841 and was but a child when her parents moved to Lyons and here she grew to womanhood and was married to Mr. Cadwell in 1864. She died in 1915, at Travis City, after over fifty

years of married life. She and Mr. Cadwell were the parents of two children, both of whom died in infancy. They adopted two after this, one of whom died and the other was returned to its mother at the age of seven years.

Mr. Cadwell became a Mason, at the age of twenty-one, and has been a member for over fifty-five years and is perhaps the oldest member in the county.

SCOTT SWARTHOUT.

Scott Swarthout is a man of genial disposition, public spirited and progressively active, and bears a high reputation for honesty and accuracy in, as well as out of, office. His birth occurred on January 7, 1869, in Winfield township, this county, and he is the son of Jacob H. and Mary A. (Rittenburg) Swarthout. Jacob H. Swarthout was a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, his birth occurring on December 28, 1834. In 1858 his parents located in Michigan, bringing him with them, and made a temporary home in Pierson township, Montcalm county, but later removed to Winfield township, in the same county. It was here that his marriage to Mary A. Rittenburg was solemnized in 1859, and from where he enlisted in the Civil War. On August 29, 1864, he was mustered into Company A, Twenty-first Michigan Volunteer Engineer Corps, and served until the close of the conflict, after which he returned to his home in Montcalm county. In 1875 he engaged in the carpentering business in which he continued until his death on November 4, 1887. He was an active member of the Andrew Macomber Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, in Lakeview, Michigan, and an active Republican in politics. His wife, Mary A. (Rittenburg) Swarthout, was born in Ontario, Canada, and was the daughter of Henry and Susan Rittenburg, who located in Winfield township, Montcalm county, for a short time, later moving to Clinton county, and thence to Ottawa county, where their remaining days were spent. Mary A. (Rittenburg) Swarthout died on November 28, 1912, at the age of seventy-two years. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: Adelaide (Bale), of Lakeview, Michigan; Marion, deceased; Frank, deceased; Estella, deceased; Scott and Dora (Andrews), now of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Scott Swarthout was but four years of age when his parents located in Lakeview, Michigan, which place has since been his home. Until sixteen years of age he was a student in the schools of Lakeview, Michigan, and he

then entered business as a barber and continued in this from 1889 until 1908. Shortly after the shop was sold, he was appointed as postmaster of Lakeview, Michigan, and served for two terms under the Republican administration or, from 1906 until 1914. Since that time he has been elected as township supervisor of Cato township, and appointed as deputy sheriff, both offices having been taken in 1914. Mr. Swarthout is also village treasurer, in which office he is serving his first term. He also served as township clerk from 1898 until 1904, and is still holding the office of secretary of the school board, in which office he has been active for more than four years. From 1894 until 1898, he served as town constable. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons, being the secretary of Lakeview Lodge No. 380, at Lakeview, Michigan, and is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 260, Knights of Pythias. He is also record and finance keeper of the Knights of the Maccabees of the World, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the lodge at Lakeview, Michigan. He is a member of the Eastern Star and quartermaster of the National League of Veterans and Sons, both at Lakeview.

On October 1, 1895, Scott Swarthout was united in marriage to Myrta Garland, and to their union three children have been born, as follow: Adelaide, born on June 6, 1900; Elnor, December 15, 1902, and Rosalind, February 2, 1909. The mother of these children was born in Chase, Michigan, and she is the daughter of John D. and Gene (Collins) Garland.

SHERMAN E. NEFF.

Sherman E. Neff, well-known banker at McBrides, this county, and long recognized as one of the most active men of affairs in this section of the state, his connection with the banking and lumber interests of this region having begun in the days of his youth when he was made a partner in the extensive business of his father, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Muir, in the neighboring county of Ionia, this state, December 6, 1867, son of Frederick and Hannah (Greenhoe) Neff, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Ohio.

Frederick Neff, who for years was one of the most influential and powerful factors in the great lumber industry of this section of Michigan, was born at Roxbury, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts, November 7, 1842, son of George and Marianne (Barronsville) Neff, natives of France.

George Neff was born in the city of Paris and after his marriage he and his wife lived in Alsace until early in 1841, at which time they came to the United States, locating at Roxbury, where they remained until 1846, in which year they moved to Grafton, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives on a small farm. George Neff was an accomplished musician and composer and for years traveled with a circus as a member of the band. He had little ability as a farmer, however, and less as a financier or manager and his family was reared amid straitened circumstances. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, ten sons and two daughters.

Of these ten sons, Frederick Neff was about four years old when his parents moved to Ohio and he grew up on the small home farm in the Grafton neighborhood, incidentally learning to make boots and shoes, a form of craftsmanship in which he became quite proficient. In 1861, he then being about nineteen years of age, Frederick Neff went to Cleveland, Ohio, and enlisted in Battery D, First Ohio Light Artillery, with which he served until the close of the Civil War. He was the battery's bugler, and a good one he was, for he had acquired an excellent musical education from his gifted father. He was taken prisoner by the Confederates at Green River bridge, in Kentucky, but shortly afterward was rescued by his comrades of the Union arms and served through the war with distinction, his personal bravery and activity frequently securing the special recognition of the higher officers, who found his services valuable in the execution of special orders, such as carrying dispatches and the like.

At the close of the war Frederick Neff returned to Grafton and shortly thereafter engaged in the boot and shoe business with several of his brothers at Napoleon, Ohio, all the brothers having become excellent boot and shoe makers, a thriving business in those days of custom-made boots. After a brief business experience at Napoleon, Mr. Neff became attracted by the glowing reports then reaching the East regarding the promising conditions then prevailing in this section of Michigan and he came up here, settling at Muir, in Ionia county, where he started a small general store. Muir at that time was the center of trade for quite a wide territory, settlers from as far away as Elm Hall trading there, the principal objects of barter then being shaved shingles, which passed, with a fixed value, about as readily as the currency of the land. It was thus that Frederick Neff received his introduction to the great shingle and lumber industry of this section and he gradually found himself working into that business, presently becoming recognized as one of the prime factors in the industry hereabout.

Before leaving Ohio Frederick Neff had married Hannah Greenhoe, who was born at Grafton, that state, and who died at Muir on March 28, 1869, leaving two sons, Frederick E., who died on June 24, 1870, and Sherman E., the immediate subject of this biographical review. Frederick Neff married, secondly, Susanna Richards, who also was born in Ohio, and who survives him, now living at McBrides, this county, where she has a very pleasant home and where she enjoys many evidences of the high esteem in which she is held throughout this community.

About the year 1873 Frederick Neff left Muir and came to this county, locating at Sheridan, where he engaged in the general merchandise business, at the same time extending his already extensive lumber business. In association with John W. Prestel, who had been a boy with him in Ohio as well as a comrade in the army, and with whom he ever maintained the closest and most brotherly relations. Mr. Neff established a shingle-mill east of Sheridan and gradually worked up the shingle timber in that section. During the late seventies the mill was moved to the McBrides neighborhood and set up about two and one-half miles southeast of the village, Mr. Neff at that time establishing his permanent home in McBrides. Soon after locating there the railroad was extended through McBrides, from Stanton, north to Edmore, and Neff & Prestel continued advancing their timber operations north until about 1882, by which time the pine thereabout had been pretty well worked up, they having reached as far north as Harrison. In the meantime the firm had undergone a change which meant much for the subject of this sketch. In addition to his connection with John W. Prestel, Mr. Neff, whose energies ever were seeking an outlet in the extension of his business, was for a time engaged in shingle manufacturing in partnership with C. E. Walls, of Ionia, and in 1882 he formed a new connection, taking his son, Sherman E. Neff, who at that time was only fifteen years old, but who had acquired a thorough acquaintance with the shingle industry, into partnership with him, he and Mr. Prestel dividing their holdings at McBrides and Sheridan, Mr. Prestel retaining the Sheridan plant and Mr. Neff retaining the plant at McBrides, the new firm being known as F. Neff & Son.

The business of F. Neff & Son grew by leaps and bounds, extending to cover various enterprises and several states. Large investments in timber lands in Arkansas, owned by Neff & Prestel, were exchanged in 1890 for a tract of about five thousand acres in the state of Washington, besides which the firm of Neff & Son possessed large timber interests in the state of Minnesota. In 1889 the shingle plant was moved from the McBrides neighbor-

hood to Gladwin and new timber material was found there sufficient to keep it going for about nine years. It had been the general custom of the lumbermen in Michigan to take off the timber and leave the land useless, but Neff & Son's policy was otherwise and it was thus that the firm presently had developed the great Neff ranch of more than one thousand acres in Day township, as well as four hundred and eighty acres in Ferris township, a quarter section near Westville and a considerable tract of valuable mineral land in Minnesota. The need of better banking facilities for the firm led to the organization, in October, 1904, of the Neff Bank at McBrides, an institution which has become a large factor in the financial life of the county and which is still the only bank at that place. In the organization of this bank Neff & Son associated with them the elder Neff's brother, Louis Neff, and on December 27, 1897, Frederick Neff & Son, in association with John W. Pfeiffer, Henry Burch and E. K. Horton, the latter of Chicago, organized the Edmore State Bank of Edmore, this county, which is still being operated under the original control, heirs of the deceased members of the original company continuing to represent the latter interests, the bank at McBrides also being continued by the families of Frederick and Louis Neff, under the active direction of Sherman E. Neff and Jacob Neff, the latter of whom is a son of Louis Neff. Frederick Neff died on December 20, 1914, and was widely mourned throughout this region, for he had done a good work hereabout and his name was held in high respect wherever his influence had touched during his long and busy career.

For years before his father's death Sherman E. Neff had been the practical director of the firm's extensive interests, having relieved his father as much as possible, during the latter's declining years, of the routine details of the business and the affairs of the firm therefore were continued without interruption or alteration of policy after the death of the elder Neff. The Neff interests hereabout mean much to the community and Sherman E. Neff is very properly regarded as one of the leaders in the financial and industrial life of this section. He is a very busy man, in the nature of things, but he ever has found time from his large personal interests to devote a good citizen's attention to public affairs and ever has been an active promoter of such movements of a local character as have been designed to advance the common good throughout this section of the state, being held in high esteem by all and enjoying the full confidence and respect of business circles generally.

In 1893 Sherman E. Neff was united in marriage to Florence Pingle,

who was born at Ovid, near Muir, in the adjoining county of Ionia, daughter of Joseph and Lois (Bradshaw) Pingle, the former a native of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, and the latter of the state of New York. Joseph Pingle was engaged in the stove business in Clinton county, making his home at Elm Hall, when his daughter, Florence, became a teacher in the schools at McBrides, where her acquaintance with Mr. Neff began, and to the happy union which culminated from this acquaintance two daughters have been born, Edith Blanche and Mary Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Neff occupy a high place in the social life of this region and are warmly interested in all proper activities of a cultural character, being held in high regard by all. Mr. Neff is a Royal Arch Mason and takes a warm interest in Masonic affairs.

HORACE L. KIRTLAND.

Horace L. Kirtland, manager for the Union Telephone Company at Lakeview, Montcalm county, is a native of this state, born in Springport, Jackson county, November 7, 1863, being a son of Horace L. and Sarah E. (Jewell) Kirtland. Both parents were born and reared in the state of New York and were descended from French and English ancestors respectively, while the family name is Scotch in its origin.

Horace L. Kirtland, Sr., and his wife came to Michigan in 1859, where he followed his former occupation of farming, devoting all the active years of his life to this vocation. Upon coming to this state, he secured a tract of government land, in its virgin state, and in the course of time converted it into a good farm. He left Jackson county in 1878, coming to this county where he passed the remainder of his life, with his son, Dr. John W. His death occurred May 22, 1899, his wife having died several years previous.

Horace L. Kirtland, Jr., the subject of this sketch, is one of four children, the others being John W., George O. and Sarah A. He received his education in the schools of Battle Creek, this state, where the family had early resided, and after discontinuing his studies, at about the age of seventeen years, he sought his first employment in the lumber yards in Lakeview, and was associated with this business for a number of years. When twenty-one years of age he assumed the management of a lumber business in the town of Totten, owned by Dan McCoy, an ex-mayor of Grand Rapids. He was with Mr. McCoy for about a year and left his employ to go to Saginaw to take a similar position in a large business owned by eastern parties. He

remained there for three years, when that branch of the business suffered a severe loss by fire and he then went to Sault Ste. Marie and took charge for the same firm at that point. He was there about two years, when the firm suffered financial reverses and he went to Tomahawk, Wisconsin, where he became manager for another large lumber firm. After four years at that place, he practically gave up his connection with the lumber business, with the exception of a short time when he contracted for lumber, which he graded and shipped.

In 1899 he purchased an established general mercantile business in Sidnaw, Houghton county, this state, where he remained for about eight years. His second year there he received the appointment of postmaster, which he held as long as he remained there, or until he came to Lakeview about 1907. His first business venture in Lakeview was in the drug business, when he had associated with him his nephews, the firm doing business under the title of Kirtland Mercantile Company. This association, however, lasted but a year, when the business was disposed of. A manager being needed for the Union Telephone Company of Michigan, at the Lakeview office, Mr. Kirtland assumed the duties of that position, having previously bought stock in the company. That position he has continued to hold to the present time.

In 1884, in Luther, Lake county, this state, Mr. Kirtland was united in marriage to Martha LeClair, born December 7, 1864, in New York. She is a daughter of Silas and Catherine (Emy) LeClair, both natives of New York and of French and Dutch parentage, respectively. The mother died when Mrs. Kirtland was a small child, and when she was fourteen years of age her father brought her to Michigan, which has since been her home. To Horace Kirtland and wife have been born four children: Frank L., the eldest, was born February 21, 1885, and was a promising young man. He became an electrical engineer and was employed in that capacity by the city of Flint, this state. During the campaign of 1910, while making some special arrangements for electric lights for election day, he was electrocuted, his death occurring September 5, 1910. He was unmarried. Mabel, born on March 12, 1887, became the wife of William Frank. They resided in Sidnaw, where her husband was killed by being accidentally hit by a baseball. He left one child, William F. George Kirtland was born on May 6, 1893, and Horace L., January 25, 1904.

Mr. Kirtland gives support to the Republican party, and although by no means an active politician, he is a member of the town council. He holds fraternal affiliation with the Knights of Pythias and takes much interest in

the work of that order. Since becoming a resident of Lakeview, Mr. Kirtland has demonstrated the genuine quality of his citizenship by evidencing his activity in whatever is planned for the advancement of community interests.

DIZ W. DEAN.

Diz W. Dean, one of the leading merchants and a man of prominence in public and official life of McBride, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, May 16, 1877, the son of George L. and Sarah J. (Holland) Dean.

George L. Dean was born in Cayuga county, New York, in 1834, the son of Henry Dean and wife, and when a young man moved to Hudson, Michigan, where he lived some time and then moved to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, in 1865, where, together with Darius Mills, he operated a saw-mill until 1880, when the mill was destroyed by fire, when George L. Dean became a farmer on land which he had purchased at an earlier time, and on that farm, to which he later added more land, Mr. Dean continued in his agricultural life for the remainder of his days. George L. Dean was a prominent man of his community, having served for thirty years as a justice of the peace and for fifteen years as a director of the schools in Bushnell township.

George L. Dean was married to Sarah J. Holland, who was born in Pennsylvania, the daughter of George and Marian Holland, natives of England and of Pennsylvania. George Holland, after his marriage in Pennsylvania, moved to Michigan, about 1860, and located in Evergreen township, where he established a pioneer home and where he engaged in general farming for the remainder of his days. Mr. Holland was a supervisor in Evergreen township for twenty-five years and was a man of influence in the community. George L. and Sarah Dean were the parents of three sons, Fred L., Don and Diz W. George L. Dean died in June, 1914; his widow, Sarah, is now living on the old home farm in Bushnell township.

Diz W. Dean received his early education in the public schools of Bushnell township, after which he attended and was graduated from the Sheridan high school and then became a student at Yerrington College, St. Louis, Michigan. Later, Mr. Dean was a student at the Michigan State Normal School, at Mt. Pleasant, afterward becoming a teacher in the schools of Montcalm county for nearly four years, and then he served three and one-

half years in the railway mail service, as a postal clerk on the Lake Shore railroad, operating between Chicago, Illinois, and Cleveland, Ohio. During the month of October, 1904, Diz W. Dean came to McBride and although he had little means, he borrowed money and established a hardware store, where he is now prosperously engaged, having enlarged his stock until his merchandise now includes hardware, farm implements, harness and blankets, together with extensive dealings in coal.

During the month of January, 1904, Diz W. Dean was married to Edna Barton, who was born in Edmore, Michigan, the daughter of Henry and Helen (Fairchild) Barton, natives of New York state and Pennsylvania, respectively. Henry Barton came to Michigan about 1872 and followed the saw-mill business, between Rockford and Cedar Springs, for about ten years and then located on a farm near Edmore, where he lived until 1903, and then came to McBride. To the marriage of Diz W. and Edna Dean have been born three children, Doris, Allen and Merton.

Diz W. Dean has been one of the most active citizens of McBride in public affairs and official life, during the whole of his residence in McBride, having been the occupant of some public office, and at times has served in two or three offices at one time. For five years Mr. Dean served as township clerk and he has occupied the offices of village treasurer and president of the village of McBride, and he is now village clerk and also a director of the local schools.

Fraternally, Diz W. Dean is a thirty-second-degree Mason and a noble of the Mystic Shrine. Mr. Dean is also a leading member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the encampment, at Edmore. Diz W. Dean is also a member of the Knights of Pythias.

HARRY C. HOLMES.

Harry C. Holmes, editor and publisher of the *Lakeview Enterprise*, of Lakeview, Michigan, is an active and successful business man and citizen of this county; solicitous for what the public wishes and a conscientious worker. He was born on July 28, 1879, in Battle Creek, Michigan, and is the son of Richard and Ida (Strait) Holmes. Richard Holmes was a native of Henrietta, Texas, coming to Michigan while employed as a railroad hand and making a temporary location in Battle Creek, after which he located in Amsdon, Michigan, where his death occurred about 1883. He and his wife

were the parents of four children, Harry C., Walter, who died in infancy; Fred M., living in Port Huron, Michigan, and Stella, who died at the age of thirteen years. After the death of Richard Holmes, his wife married W. A. Courtwright, who lives in Belvidere township, Montcalm county, and they were the parents of the following children: Vernice (Aiken), of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Claude, of Edmore, Michigan; L. G., also of Grand Rapids; Clifford, of Belvidere township, and two others who died in infancy. The mother of these children was born in Illinois and her death occurred about 1897.

Harry C. Holmes located in Greenville, Michigan, when five years of age, and was reared and educated in that town, after which he worked at various vocations, gaining the rudiments of a strong business experience, which has enabled him to make a success of his chosen profession. At the age of twenty-two years he learned the printer's trade under the tutelage of William White, editor of the *Edmore Times*, of Edmore, Michigan. From Edmore he went to Morely, Michigan, where he operated the *Morely Journal*, for Lowrey & Haskins. After two years he returned to the *Edmore Times* as partner, this partnership continuing about two years, at which time he moved to Lakeview, Michigan, where he leased the *Lakeview Enterprise* for one year. He later purchased the entire plant and has been so successful that the subscription list numbers about eight hundred. He also produces job printing and has a lucrative business in that line. He is an active Republican and served as village clerk while at Edmore, Michigan, and has served as village treasurer of Lakeview. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ivanhoe Lodge No. 380, Free and Accepted Masons, at Lakeview, Michigan.

In 1906 Harry C. Holmes was united in marriage to Fae White, daughter of William and Lillian (Carveth) White. William White was born on March 18, 1858, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and was left an orphan at an early age, his father having been killed in the notable battle of Bull Run, while serving in an Indiana regiment. The boyhood of William White was spent in his native state, where he was obliged to earn his living as best he could. In 1873 he was taken into the family of William H. Stevens, of Stanton, Michigan, where he had the advantage of a good education, graduating from the Stanton high school with the class of 1879. He then engaged in the business of painter for a period of two years, after which he formed a partnership with P. S. Dodge and together they found the *Stanton Clipper*. In 1882 William White sold his interest in the paper to P. S. Dodge and

removed to Hastings, Minnesota, where he spent the summer. In 1883 he located in Edmore, Michigan, and purchased the *Edmore Journal*, which was continued for many years with success. This publication was a five column quarto weekly paper, devoted to the interests of the Republican party and the general public. Mr. White was outspoken in his opinions of public affairs and tenets of government policy and was active for the party of which he was a member. He owns his business block in the town of Edmore, Michigan, and has been very successful as a business man. On November 24, 1882, William White was united in marriage to Lillian Carveth, a native of Berry county, Michigan, and to them were born two children, Fae B. and Leon. The father of these children is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Edmore, Michigan, of which order he is secretary. He also belongs to the Knights of the Maccabees, at Edmore, and is trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which denomination he is a devout member.

WILLIAM C. JAMIESON.

William C. Jamieson well-known farmer of Cato township, Montcalm county, was born near the town of Galt, in Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, February 17, 1866. He is a son of John S. and Agnes B. (Moscrip) Jamieson, the former born at Kingston, Ontario, and the latter in New York state, near Lake George. The Jamieson family is of Scottish origin and was driven out of their native land at the time Scotland was overrun by the invading Danes. The Jamiesons fled to Ireland, where they followed their former occupation of weaving, for many years. Upon emigrating to America, certain members of the family settled in Canada, near Kingston, where John S., father of William C., was born, and in 1832 the family moved to Galt, Ontario, arriving there just before the outbreak of the epidemic of cholera which carried off more than one thousand people in that community.

John S. Jamieson was a farmer all his life and in January, 1869, he came to Montcalm county, looking about for a suitable location. He journeyed on into Iowa and in March or April of the same year, returned to Montcalm county and purchased forty acres in Cato township. The family arrived in May, and later on Mr. Jamieson bought eighty additional acres, but gave it to his eldest son. The family lived in Cato township for many years, where three boys and four girls were reared, William C. being next to the youngest child. John S. Jamieson was one of the influential men of

his day in this section and did much to promote the advancement of civilization. He was one of the organizers of the Congregational church at Lakeview and was also one of the organizers of the Lakeview Agricultural Society, in which he took an active part. He was a Republican, being much interested in local affairs, but he never aspired to any office.

William C. Jamieson received the best education the common schools in this section at that time afforded, supplemented with some high school work and considerable study at home. In this manner he acquired considerable information about bookkeeping and surveying and at the present time he does all the surveying required in his vicinity. Mr. Jamieson has always been considered an excellent farmer and now owns his father's original "forty" and one hundred and sixty acres additional in Cato township.

On March 21, 1908, William C. Jamieson was married at Grand Rapids to Una Porter, born on June 21, 1878, in Trufant, Montcalm county, daughter of Frank and Minerva (Brown) Porter. The family history of the Porters will be found in the sketch of Chester Stubbins, on another page. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson are interested in the work of the Congregational church at Lakeview and contribute generously of their means to support same. He holds fraternal affiliation with the ancient order of Freemasonry and both himself and wife are members of the Eastern Star. He also is a Granger. In politics, Mr. Jamieson is a Republican and for the last five years has served as justice of the peace for his township. He can be counted on for assistance in any cause planned to advance any phase of community life.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

Benjamin F. Butler, of Lakeview, Montcalm county, Michigan, bears a high reputation for honesty and integrity. He is well informed on real-estate values, which business he represents, and operates a collection agency in connection therewith, which is a lucrative part of his interests. His birth occurred on March 18, 1884, in Ingham county, Michigan, his parents being Frank D. and Amelia (Brown) Butler.

Benjamin F. Butler left his native county when he was nearly five years of age, moving to Clinton county, Michigan, with his parents, who remained in that location until he was nine years of age and then located in Owosso, Michigan. It was in that town and locality that Benjamin F. Butler received his education in the common schools, finishing same with one term in book-

keeping and business, in a local business college. He was then employed as line man and bookkeeper for the Bell Telephone Company, at Owosso, Michigan. After four years of service to this company he removed to Lakeview, Michigan, and purchased forty acres of land which he cultivated and improved and on which he set out an orchard covering fifteen acres. For three years he operated this farm, which he then sold, and became an employee of a local factory for a short time. He was then employed in the grocery store of Peter Peterson, where he clerked for five years, at that time beginning an independent business of his own by purchasing a half interest in his present concern. This was in 1912, and the firm became known as Bissel & Butler, operating real estate, loans and insurance. Lewis L. Bissel retired in June, 1915, on account of age, and his place in the firm was filled by Edith O. (Stark) Butler, the firm now being known as Butler & Butler.

On November 24, 1903, Benjamin F. Butler was united in marriage to Edith O. Stark, daughter of George W. and Elida (Cobb) Stark. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Butler two children have been born: Paul Keith, born on October 7, 1908, and Frederick Earl, whose birth occurred on February 2, 1911. In his fraternal relations, Benjamin F. Butler is a member of Lakeview Lodge No. 380, Free and Accepted Masons, being the senior warden of same. He is also clerk of the Lakeview Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America; the Order of Yeomen also claims him as a member, as do the Sisters of the Eastern Star. He is an active Republican in his political views and has served as village trustee one year (1913), and during 1915 as village clerk. As justice of the peace he was elected to fill a vacancy and was re-elected in the spring of 1915. During 1914 he served as clerk of Cato township, this county.

Edith O. (Stark) Butler was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, as was her father, George W. Stark, who was reared, educated and married in that state. He later lived at Lowell, Michigan, for a short time and thence went to Seranac, Michigan, where he lived until death. He was a plumber by trade and was employed with Hunter's Hardware Company, of Seranac, for more than twenty years. George W. and Elida (Cobb) Stark were the parents of three children, whose names follow: Edith O., Eva, wife of E. D. Barber, of Seranac, Michigan, and Frederick, a farmer, also of Seranac, Michigan. George W. Stark died in March, 1908, at the age of forty-nine years, and his wife died in 1896, at the age of thirty-four years. His parents were Phineas and Hannah (Davis) Stark, natives of England and Germany, respectively. He was active as a member of the Republican

party and in his fraternal relations was affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, at Saranac, Michigan. Elida (Cobb) Stark was the daughter of Joseph H. Cobb, a native of Ionia county, Michigan, as was also his wife. He served in the Civil War, after which he engaged in the furniture and hardware business and became both prominent and successful. He filled many local offices in Baldwin, Michigan, where his home and business interests were located.

WILLIAM B. SMITH.

William B. Smith, engaged in agricultural labors on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cato township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, March 31, 1862. He is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Quinn) Smith, both also natives of Columbiana county, the former being a son of Lewis Smith, who emigrated to this country from Ireland. Daniel Smith was a farmer all his life and in that occupation William B. was trained from his early boyhood.

William B. Smith is the third child in a family of five children and as a boy received a good common-school education in the district schools near his farm home. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he came to this state and located in Montcalm county, where he has since made his home. When he first came to this county, William B. Smith worked in the lumber camps, remaining there for about six years and during that time he saved enough money to purchase a farm. He bought eighty acres of his present farm, paying twelve hundred dollars in cash for it and set about removing the stumps and making the ground ready for cultivation. The timber had all been removed before he purchased it and Mr. Smith today has one of the fine farms of his section. He has since added an additional tract of eighty acres, built a comfortable home and has a well established farm business. He devotes his attention to general farming and stock raising and is proud of his extensive orchard, which, however, he keeps for private purposes.

William B. Smith was married on August 19, 1885, to Lena C. Smith, who was born in Ionia county, this state, a daughter of Philip and Sarah Smith. They came to this state from Indiana and were of German extraction. Mrs. William B. Smith died on December 6, 1896, leaving her husband and three children, William H., Alvin L. and Benjamin P. None of these sons are married and all continue to reside on the family homestead.

In politics, Mr. Smith is a Democrat, although never a seeker after office nor active in political matters. He holds fraternal affiliation in the Free and Accepted Masons, having united with same shortly after attaining his majority, and of that order his eldest son, William H., is also a member. During the years of his residence in this county, Mr. Smith has seen many changes come about in the manner of living and the large automobile which he drives is thoroughly in keeping with the most advanced ideas of the present time. When a young man he was considered an exceptionally good rifle-shot and took much pleasure in hunting, still finding keen enjoyment in the sport.

J. C. NEWBROUGH.

J. C. Newbrough, one of the organizers of the Velvet Liquid Soap Company, and at the present time its secretary and treasurer, was born in Lansing, on September 10, 1860, and is the son of Eugene P. and Samantha (Mun) Newbrough.

Eugene P. Newbrough was born in Ashland county, Ohio, and was the son of William Henry and Elizabeth (Polsley) Newbrough. William Henry was one of three brothers who came to this country about the time of the Revolutionary War, one of the brothers serving as a blacksmith with the army. Shortly after coming to this country, William Henry came on west to the new territory of Ashland county, Ohio, where he was one of the early pioneers of that section. Elizabeth (Polsley) Newbrough was a native of Wales, which was also the birth-place of her husband, and came to the United States at an early date.

Samantha (Mun) Newbrough, the mother of J. C., was born in Ashland county, Ohio, and at present is living at her home in Lansing, the husband and father having died in 1885. Eugene Newbrough grew to manhood in Ohio where he was engaged on the farm and taught school. In 1850, and some time after his marriage, he and his wife came to Michigan, where Mr. Newbrough was engaged in the drug and grocery business for a number of years. Eugene Newbrough and wife were the parents of the following children, Elizabeth R., the wife of F. E. Goodnow, of Lansing; J. C.; Mary O., the wife of Frank C. Knight, of Lansing, and William H., whose home is also in the capital city.

J. C. Newbrough received his education in the public schools of Lansing. After completing his education he was employed for a time in the northern



J. C. NEWBROUGH.

woods and as a clerk in a store. He located in Greenville in 1882, being employed by a large lumber company, with whom he was engaged until 1897, when he was the superintendent of construction on the government building at Mt. Pleasant for one year. In August, 1898, he was appointed assistant postmaster and at the end of eight years he received his commission as postmaster, which position he held for eight years, since which time he has been with his present company.

J. C. Newbrough was married on November 3, 1886, to Ella Narregan, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Narregan, who came to Michigan from the state of New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Newbrough have been born two children, Gertrude E., a graduate of the high school and at present a student at the Michigan Agricultural College, and Violette, a student in the Greenville high school.

Fraternally, Mr. Newbrough is a member of Le Roy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, and politically, he is a Republican and has served two terms as alderman for his home city.

Mr. and Mrs. Newbrough and family are active and influential members of the Congregational church and take much interest in all the activities of the church.

THOMAS B. WINTER.

Thomas B. Winter, of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, is the owner and manager of the Winter Inn, which is well patronized by those in need of hotel service. His birth occurred in April, 1852, in Canada.

Thomas B. Winter attended the schools of Fenton, Michigan. He then became interested in the livery business, continuing in this until 1908. The Winter Inn was then built and he became its successful proprietor. He married Hannah Berry, the daughter of Lorando Berry. She was born in Ionia county, Michigan, where she was reared. Five children have been born to this union, as follow: Jennie, a graduate of the Greenville high school and a former student of Olivet College and now the wife of G. W. Allwood, of Grand Rapids; Floyd, also a graduate of the high school in Greenville, as well as from the law school, and now a practicing attorney in Greenville; Claude, who graduated from the Greenville high school and then became a student in Detroit College, and is now a traveling salesman out of Greenville; Thomas, a graduate of the local high school and a former student of

the Chicago Musical College, and now a musician in Detroit, Michigan, and Helen, who is still at home.

Thomas B. Winter is a member of the Knights of Pythias in his fraternal relations and is well liked in all circles. He is a Republican.

SALEM F. KENNEDY.

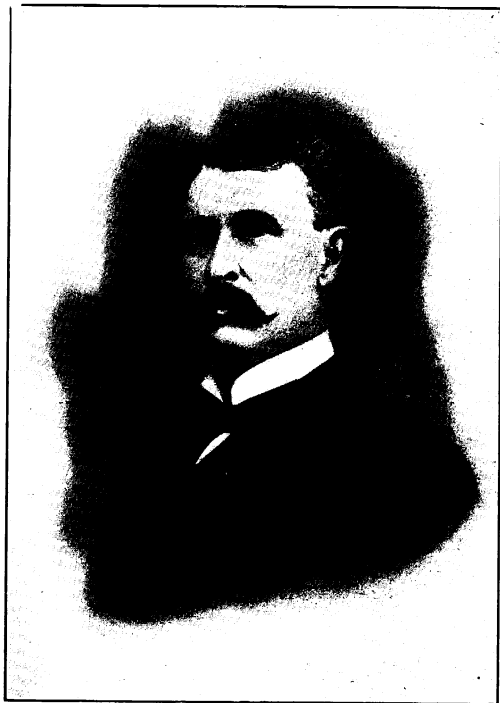
Salem F. Kennedy, postmaster at Lakeview, this county, one of Montcalm county's best-known lawyers, former county superintendent of schools, former county commissioner, for years active in the political life of this section of the state and well known throughout Michigan as the author of "Kennedy's Standard Tax Tables," a monumental mathematical work setting out a quick and accurate method of making tax rolls, also widely known throughout this section as a scholar and lecturer of distinguished attainments, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Medina county, that state, February 14, 1848, son of Horace Downs and Deborah P. (Miller) Kennedy, both natives of the state of New York.

Horace D. Kennedy was born in Eaton township, Madison county, New York, July 17, 1804, son of Jacob and Uraney (Miner) Kennedy, the former of whom was born at Milton, Massachusetts, April 13, 1764, and the latter, also a native of Massachusetts, February 13, 1770. After marriage, Jacob Kennedy and wife settled at Brighton, Monroe county, New York, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Jacob's death occurring on February 2, 1826, and that of his widow on June 11, 1850. They were the parents of five children, Andrew, Horace D., Sallie, Emmaline and Harriet, all now deceased.

Horace D. Kennedy was reared in Monroe county, New York, and married at Penfield, to Deborah P. Miller, who was born in Ontario county, New York, May 31, 1808. She was the daughter of Lyman and Celia (Wheeler) Miller, both natives of Massachusetts. Lyman Miller moved from Massachusetts to New York state, driving through with an ox-team in the winter time, settling in Monroe county, and from that place emigrated to the township of Hinkley, Medina county, Ohio, in 1833. Two years later Horace D. Kennedy and his wife, with their two children, followed, settling on the farm for many years known as the Kennedy homestead. Horace D. Kennedy was a farmer in a general way, but was widely known in that section as a composer and teacher of sacred music. He was one of the founders



Blanchette B. Kennedy



S. W. Kennedy

of the Sons of Temperance, at Weymouth, Ohio, in 1847, and he and his wife were members of the Congregational church at Brunswick, same state, both spending their last days in that place; her death occurring on February 26, 1876, and his, February 8, 1879. They were the parents of seven children, of whom but three are now living, Newton J., of Greenville, this county; Salem F., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Mattie S., who married B. Brainard, of Brunswick, Ohio; the others having been Sanford L., Craney, Andrew M. and Arvin B.

Salem F. Kennedy was reared on a farm in the neighborhood of Hinkley, Medina county, Ohio, receiving his education in the schools of that place, and in 1866, he then being eighteen years of age, came to Michigan, locating at Grattan, in Kent county, where his associates were in lumber camps. Later he opened a writing school, as an incident to his other employment, and while thus engaged conducted thirty-two terms of writing school in that vicinity. Mr. Kennedy possesses a natural facility as a penman and his efforts in teaching the useful art of caligraphy were greatly appreciated by the people of that section. In the meantime he opened a general store at Grattan Center, where he also owned a flour- and grist-mill, doing an excellent business in connection with both enterprises. In 1874 Mr. Kennedy married a Grattan girl and, having previously sold his store and mill, engaged in farming for a couple of years, at the end of which time he began teaching school and was thus engaged for eight years, conducting schools at White Swan and at Cannonsburg, in Kent county, and later for five years as principal of the Lakeview high school, Montcalm county. In 1880 Mr. Kennedy was called to this county to take the principalship of the schools at Lakeview and has ever since made that pleasant village his home. Not long after taking up his residence in this county, Mr. Kennedy was elected county superintendent of schools of his county and served the public very acceptably in that connection and also as county commissioner for nine years. In various campaigns he has been on the Democratic ticket for representative or state senator. In the meantime and for years, Mr. Kennedy had been giving his most thoughtful attention to the study of law, having been a student along that line since he was twenty-one years of age, and in 1885 was admitted to the bar, since which time he has been practicing his profession in Montcalm and adjacent counties and is widely known as an able lawyer. For some time he served the public as city attorney of Lakeview and in 1913 was appointed by Governor Ferris as a member of the state board of control and is still attached to that important body.

For years Mr. Kennedy has given his thoughtful attention to the political affairs of this county and long has been regarded as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in the county. During the past two campaigns he has been chairman of the county delegations of that party and also has served in several campaigns as chairman of the county's delegations to state conventions. In November, 1914, he was appointed postmaster of Lakeview and is now serving very acceptably in that important capacity. Mr. Kennedy is a writer of no mean ability and as a mathematician has attained wide note. He was for several years editor of the mathematical department of the Delhi (Pennsylvania) University *School Journal* and is the author of a work of two hundred pages on geometry and mensuration sold in Tennessee, and also what is known as Kennedy's "Date Ratios." He also was the author of two valuable treatises on differential and integral calculus, which were destroyed in manuscript during the disastrous fire at Lakeview in 1894. But it is as the author of "Kennedy's Standard Tax Tables," a monumental work designed as a time-saving, quick and accurate method of computing tax rolls, that Mr. Kennedy is best known as a mathematician, this work having been adopted almost universally by the supervisors of Michigan and by many of the auditors in other states, being perhaps the most complete work of the kind ever published. Mr. Kennedy also has been a wide traveler and is a man of extensive and comprehensive information on a host of subjects. Following a trip through the West Indies some years ago, he delivered several lectures on the habits and customs of the people of those islands which attracted much attention, and he also has lectured extensively throughout the lower peninsula in connection with his researches in the field of taxation. Mr. Kennedy also has taken an active part in the general affairs of the community and is a man of varied activities. He is a vice-president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Lakeview, a member of the board of directors of that sound financial institution and chairman of the discount committee of the same. He also is acting as receiver for the affairs of the Michigan Chair and Table Factory, a concern owned by a Lakeview corporation, and in other ways has demonstrated his interest in the business life of the town and vicinity, long having been regarded as one of the most public-spirited and useful citizens of that place.

In 1874, at Grattan, this state, Salem F. Kennedy was united in marriage to Blanche B. Wolfe, who was born at Grattan on December 25, 1850, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth (Bellamy) Wolfe, the latter of Vermont and the former of Ohio, who came to Michigan after a sometime residence

in Ohio, becoming well-known residents of Grattan, and to this union two children have been born, Laurin L., assistant postmaster at Lakeview, who married May Brown and has one child, Irene May, and Louie J., a traveling salesman for a coffee house at Kansas City, Missouri, in which city he makes his home, who married Ora Lindsley and has two children, Gordon A. and Salem F. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy for years have been among the leaders in the social and cultural life of their community and are held in the highest esteem throughout the county. Mrs. Kennedy is a woman of fine education and as a mathematician has been a valuable assistant to her husband in his extensive labors along those lines. The Kennedys have a fine home at Lakeview and possess besides other valuable real estate in that town and in Cato township, together with considerable land holdings in Medina county, Ohio, and real estate holdings in Grand Rapids, and are accounted quite well circumstanced. Mr. Kennedy became a Mason in 1868, a member of Grattan Lodge No. 104, and ever since, a period of nearly fifty years, has been deeply interested in Masonic affairs, his active membership long ago having been transferred to the lodge at Lakeview, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

LEWIS WARD.

One of the most prominent citizens of Lakeview, Michigan, and one who has taken a conspicuous part in the official life of his town and county, is Lewis Ward, who was born in Irwin township, Steuben county, New York, August 23, 1847. He is the son of Robert and Charity (Borst) Ward, both natives of New York, the former of English and the latter of Dutch descent. They were farmers in Steuben county, New York, and lived there all of their lives. They reared a family of eleven children, of whom Lewis was the eighth.

Lewis Ward was educated in the district schools of Irwin township and, when a boy of thirteen years, started out to make his own way. On December 3, 1863, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in the Civil War, in Company A, Fiftieth Regiment, New York Engineers, and was connected with the Army of the Potomac. He saw the greater part of his service around Petersburg and in the battle of the Wilderness, but was not in any of the larger engagements, being employed most of the time in building bridges and roads. He was in several minor skirmishes and often barely escaped being

taken prisoner. He was discharged at Washington on June 8, 1865, and his regiment disbanded at Elmira, New York, three weeks later.

While Mr. Ward was serving in the war his father had died and, upon his return from service, he farmed the home farm for his mother for one year. In the fall of 1867 he came west to Cato township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he worked as a lumberman for about six or eight years. In 1875 he bought ten acres of land in section 21, of this township, and proceeded to clear it and put it under cultivation, a short time afterward adding ten acres and still later another ten acres, making in all a farm of thirty acres. He farmed this small farm for some time and then purchased eighty acres in section 33, of Cato township, which he farmed until he sold out and moved to Lakeview in 1904, at which time he owned one hundred and sixty acres in section 33 and thirty acres in section 21. Since coming to Lakeview he has bought his own home and also has another piece of property which he rents.

On December 3, 1860, Lewis Ward was married to Mary Shutt, who was born in Germany and came to America with her parents when ten years of age. They first settled in Canada, but later came to Michigan, where Mr. and Mrs. Ward were married. To this union have been born three children, James M., Adeline and Myra, and besides these children, Mr. and Mrs. Ward adopted one son, Lewis S. Farrer. James M. was born in May, 1871, and was first married to Stella Bliss and to them were born five children, Fanny, Alger, Robert, Warren and Mary. After the death of his first wife, he was married to Martha Scott and to them have been born three children, Clifford, Keats and Pernell. Adeline, deceased, was born on February 13, 1873, and married John Fries, and to them was born one child, who is also deceased. Myra, born on October 27, 1875, married James Maine and to this union was born one child, who is now deceased. Lewis S. Farrer was born on October 14, 1890, the son of Solon and Jane (Jamerson) Farrer, who were of Scotch descent. His mother died when he was two weeks old, at which time he was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Ward and has lived with them since. He married Catherine Bates and they have one son, Jarvis.

Mrs. Ward is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and takes an active part in the work of the church and Sunday school. Mr. Ward is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes a deep interest in the affairs of this lodge. Politically, he is a Democrat, although he is more or less independent in local politics, voting for the man he thinks best suited for the office, regardless of his politics. At present he is filling the

office of constable and marshal of Lakeview, which position he has occupied for eight years. He has also served as street commissioner, health officer and fire chief of Lakeview.

Upon coming to Montcalm county, Mr. Ward had practically nothing, but by perseverance, economy and hard work, he has accumulated his present possessions and may worthily be called a self-made man. He endured all of the hardships experienced by the early settlers and has seen Montcalm county grow from a wilderness into its present state of prosperity. Mr. Ward is one of the public-spirited and enterprising citizens of Montcalm county and is well liked and highly respected by all who know him.

CHARLES L. MEACH.

A hardware dealer and one of the most highly respected and best-known men of Lakeview, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Charles L. Meach, who was born on February 16, 1877, in Ionia county, Michigan, the son of William and Augusta (Morse) Meach, both natives of New York, who came to Michigan when small children with their respective parents. The Meach family is of English and Scotch descent and a very old family in the United States. William Meach was a farmer by occupation and followed that line of work all of his life, or until his retirement. In 1879 he came to Montcalm county and located near McBride.

Charles L. Meach grew up in the vicinity of McBride and here received his education in the district schools, later attending the Central Michigan Normal School, from which he was graduated in 1897, being a member of the second class to graduate from that institution. He had previously received a teacher's certificate and had taught from 1894 to 1896, and, after attending the normal school, taught for two years in the Lakeview high school. In 1899 he went to Sheridan, where he was superintendent of the school for three years, or until 1902, when in November of that year, he was elected to the office of county clerk. In the fall of 1902 he began teaching in the Greenville school, but resigned this position on January 1, 1903, when he took up his duties as clerk, holding this office for three terms or six years. In the spring of 1908 he bought an interest in the John W. S. Person Company and remained with them until 1911, at which time he disposed of his stock and bought out the hardware and implement business of M. W. Gee, in Lakeview. This firm was incorporated in the spring of 1915, chang-

ing it from a co-partnership with Claude E. White to a corporation with six stockholders. Since taking up this business, Mr. Meach has been very successful and has recently added a line of furniture.

Charles L. Meach was married in Montcalm county, August 23, 1900, to Jennie J. Northrop, who was born in Ionia county, March 30, 1878, the daughter of Charles M. and Charlotte (Dygert) Northrop, who were natives of New York and of English descent. They came from New York to Montcalm county early in the seventies, settling in Greenville, but in 1876 moved to Lakeview. To Mr. and Mrs. Meach have been born two children, Stuart, born on November 20, 1908, and Eunice M., February 25, 1913.

Fraternally, Mr. Meach is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to the blue lodge at Lakeview and the chapter at Stanton; and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Stanton, also belonging to the encampment. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meach are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. The Meach family are members of the Congregational church and take an active interest in all of the work of this denomination. Politically, Mr. Meach is a Republican, but the only offices which he has held are those of county clerk and a member of the town council of Lakeview. Mr. Meach is very popular in Lakeview and has a large number of friends and acquaintances, by whom he is highly esteemed.

AUGUSTUS F. HILL.

Augustus Hill was born in Germany, August 21, 1870, a son of Chris and Emma (Ponath) Hill. Chris Hill was a farm laborer in his native land and about the year 1871 emigrated to America, landing at the port of New York. He came directly to this state, locating in Grand Rapids, where he continued to be employed as a laborer, but in 1880 he moved to Montcalm county and bought forty acres of land in Maple Valley township. The tract he obtained was wild land and had to be reclaimed from the virgin forest. The first house erected on the land was a small frame building, which served the family for several years, when a larger residence was built. Chris Hill prospered, owing to his thrift and industry, and at the time of his death was possessed of one hundred and sixty acres. The accumulation of this property was brought about through much hardship, such as was the order of the day while he was engaged in making a home. He passed from this life on February 2, 1914, his wife having preceded him on December 2.

1909. Chris Hill had taken an active interest in local politics and was a very devout member of the Lutheran church. He was one of the organizers and builders of the Maple Hill church in Pierson township.

Augustus F. Hill is the eldest of a family of three children, the others being Edward, who married Louisa Schaub and lives in Maple Valley township. He is the father of two children, Amanda and Arthur. Charles married Malinda Schaub, sister of Edward's wife. Charles also lives in Maple Valley township and has two children, Harold and Russell.

Augustus F. Hill has never married. He received his education in the common schools of Trufant and remained at home until eighteen years of age, assisting the father in clearing the home farm and getting it under cultivation. After leaving home he was for two years with the Pere Marquette railroad, helping in the construction of their western division. After returning home, he bought forty acres of land in Maple Valley township, which he farmed for fourteen years. This farm he enlarged until he had one hundred and twenty acres in one tract. Mr. Hill also owns eighty acres of land in Cato township. In 1909 he retired from the active work on his farms and took up his residence in Lakeview, where he had previously purchased a piece of property, and there he has since made his home. He keeps charge of the management of his land and in addition to that, devotes considerable time to political matters.

Mr. Hill gives support to the Republican party and has at different times been a member of the town board, the highway commission and the board of review, having served on the latter for eight years. Mr. Hill has been the county Republican representative to the state conventions, in which body he was a delegate three different times. He has been repeatedly urged to run for state representative, but has steadfastly refused. Mr. Hill cast his first vote for President Cleveland and since that time had not lost a vote until the election of President Wilson.

Augustus F. Hill holds fraternal affiliation with the Grangers and as a member of that lodge has held prominent offices. He has been a delegate to the state convention and was there appointed to serve on prominent committees, such as the legislative commission, etc. Mr. Hill is not a member of any church, but is a strong advocate of religious principles and gives his support to the Congregational church. His principles are of the highest and finest. He is well known for his strict views on the temperance question and as a friend of little children he is warmly regarded by the rising generation.

In addition to his farming interests, Augustus F. Hill is a stockholder in the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Lakeview. His brothers also have prospered, each owning fine farms and being leaders in their respective communities. Each has been active in local politics, holding minor offices and both are devout members of the Lutheran church, in which they have filled prominent offices. Both also are active in fraternal organizations, being members of the Knights of the Maccabees, the Gleaners and the Grangers.

FRANCIS G. WILLIAMSON.

Francis G. Williamson, a well-known grocer of Lakeview, Michigan, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, March 7, 1855, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth M. (Godfrey) Williamson, both natives of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and of Scotch-Irish descent. Thomas Williamson was a tanner by trade and worked at this occupation for many years after coming to Ohio, although he later took up farming, which he followed until his death. To Thomas and Elizabeth M. Williamson were born ten children, of whom Francis G. was the eighth.

Francis G. Williamson received his elementary education in the district schools of his home neighborhood and, after completing the common school course, went to Fremont (Saudusky county) high school, from which he was graduated. After completing his education he went to work in a grocery store, where he remained for six months, when he went to work in a general store, as he thought this store offered more opportunity for advancement. He worked in this store for fourteen years, after which he secured a position with the Michigan & Ohio Railroad Company, being employed on their extension work in Michigan. While working in this state, Mr. Williamson had grown to like it very much and, when his work with the railroad came to an end, he decided to stay. He went to work in the timber, where he worked for some time or until 1881, when he located in Lakeview, securing employment in a grocery store, which was located on the site of his present store. After clerking in this store for ten years, he formed a partnership with David N. Richards and bought the store. He and Mr. Richards continued in partnership for three years, when Mr. Williamson bought out Mr. Richards' stock and has since conducted the business alone. He has been in business in the same block for about twenty-five years and in the same room for twenty-two years.

On August 22, 1889, Francis G. Williamson was married to Marguerite A. Cobey, who was born in Canada, near Welland, Ontario, the daughter of Jacob Richard and Sarah (Freish) Cobey, both natives of Canada, probably of French-Canadian descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Williamson has been born one child, who is now deceased.

Besides his grocery business, Mr. Williamson is also interested in farming, and for the past few years has been particularly interested in fruit culture, which he conducts on a scientific basis. He owns a farm of eighty acres about one and one-half miles northwest of Lakeview, on which he has about sixteen hundred trees of peaches, apples, cherries, plums and pears. He also raises potatoes, beans, corn and wheat and has been very successful in this line of work.

Mr. and Mrs. Williamson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in the work of this congregation. Mr. Williamson is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, which he joined while a resident of Ohio, and he and his wife are both members of the Order of the Eastern Star, he having helped to organize the local order. Although Mr. Williamson has held several minor public offices, he has never been active in politics, preferring to devote his time and attention to his private interests.

CHARLES S. RICHARDS.

Charles S. Richards, a farmer of Cato township, Montcalm county, was born in Kingston Center, Delaware county, Ohio, June 30, 1857. He is the eldest of the three children of Cornelius and Sarah (Carney) Richards, both also natives of Delaware county. Cornelius Richards was a son of Cornelius, Sr., who was born of German parentage in the state of New Jersey and when a young married man, he and his wife left their native state and went to Ohio, which was then on the frontier, riding all the distance on horseback.

Cornelius, father of Charles S., was born on June 15, 1802, and died on December 3, 1882. His wife was born on January 25, 1834 and passed from this life on December 11, 1913. The two other children of the family are also deceased, so that Charles S. Richards is the sole surviving member of his immediate family. His brother, Commodore J., was born August 25, 1859, and died March 14, 1907, and his brother, Wilbur C., was born July 26, 1866, and passed away the same year. The parents were married

in their native Delaware county (Ohio), February 2, 1854, and in 1865 they journeyed to this state, arriving in Cato township in October of that year. The elder Richards came to take possession of a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land located in sections 21 and 28, which had been given to him by his father, who had purchased the wild land from the government some thirteen years previous. Cornelius Richards made his home for the remainder of his life on that farm. He at one time sold half of the original tract and purchased forty acres of railroad land instead, making his holdings one hundred and twenty acres and there he farmed until his active days were ended. His wife will be remembered as an excellent woman and a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Charles S. Richards was a young boy when brought to this county by his parents and received his education at the Notmull school, Cato township, making the best of such advantages as were offered at that time. From the first he assisted the father in the work of the farm and has continued in that vocation all his life. Mr. Richards conducts general farming as practiced throughout this section and gives especial attention to his fine herd of Holstein cattle, which he is gradually working up to a high state of perfection.

On April 19, 1885, Charles S. Richards was married in Cato township to Effie Lapp, a native of this same township, born on September 23, 1868, a daughter of Richard and Mary J. (Gleeson) Lapp, both of whom were born in Collin, Ontario, Canada. Mrs. Lapp died when her daughter Effie was but seven years of age and two years later their home was destroyed by fire and the contents with it, so that all early records of her family were lost. To Mr. and Mrs. Richards have been born thirteen children, ten of whom are living. They are: Lester, born January 23, 1886, who has been twice married. His first wife was Eva Male, who bore him four children: Lena, Katie, Lillie and Leo. Mrs. Lester Richards died on June 2, 1912 and Lester later married Florie Greenfield, who has borne him one child, Anna May. Mary J. Richards was born on November 8, 1887, and died on December 14, 1909. She was the wife of Martin Bush. Zellia M., May 2, 1889, married Charles Butterick and has one child, Effie E. Sarah, September 5, 1890, is the wife of Oscar Russell and the mother of three children, Edna, Earl and Elsie May. Cornelius, January 7, 1894, and is still at home. Delia, April 25, 1895, and became the wife of John Chivers and the mother of one child, Lloyd. Hazel, April 28, 1896, and married Martin G. Bush. She has two children, Franklin G. and Raymond C.

Evelina, July 9, 1898, and is the wife of Philip Wright. Peter, August 1, 1901, and died March 30, 1903. Victor, November 20, 1903. Myrtle, April 16, 1906. Edith, January 13, 1909, and one other child died in earliest infancy.

As a rule, Mr. Richards votes the Republican ticket, but he is practically independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the ticket. He has displayed a commendable interest in local affairs and held some minor offices, discharging his duties in a fitting manner to all concerned.

LAURISTON B. FARNSWORTH.

Lauriston B. Farnsworth, a creditable representative of the civic and agricultural interests of the community in which he resides, was born on October 26, 1859, in Masina, St. Lawrence county, New York, and is the son of David J. and Didama (Bradford) Farnsworth. David J. Farnsworth was a native of New Hampshire and of true Yankee stock. He followed farming as a vocation and was very successful in this line. His wife was a native of New York and came to Michigan with her husband, in 1880, locating first in Grand Rapids for one year and thence to Montcalm county, where they established a residence on two hundred and forty acres of cut-over timber land, in Pine township, section 10. A large home was erected in 1885, and here they remained until death. He died on October 18, 1899, and his widow on June 30, 1904. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the parents of seven children, of whom six lived to reach maturity. Their names follow: Alden J., Lauriston B., Mrs. Hattie Williams, George W., Edson and Stella. Edson died in October, 1891, and Stella, in 1905.

Lauriston B. Farnsworth received his education in the schools of his native town, subsequently engaging in agricultural pursuits, which he has since continued. He remained under the parental roof until the death of his father and mother, at which time he came into possession of the home place. Politically, he is faithful to the Democratic party and under that regime has served in the office of township supervisor, of Pine township, being elected in 1895, and serving for six years. He was also, in 1914, re-elected to this office which he still holds. Previous to his election as township supervisor, he acted as township treasurer for two years and previous to his last election he was township treasurer for two terms. Fra-

ternally, he is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, of which his wife is also a member. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and very active in its support.

On July 31, 1886, in Greenville, Montcalm county, Lauriston B. Farnsworth and Floria L. Eberhardt were united in marriage and to their union two children were born, Bessie E. and Edson H. Bessie E. was born on May 17, 1890, and married Leo A. Youngman, of Lakeview, Michigan. She is a graduate of the Lakeview high school and taught for three years in the schools of Pine township. Edson H. was born on March 21, 1892, and lives at home. Floria L. (Eberhardt) Farnsworth was born on December 14, 1865, in Ionia, Michigan, and is the daughter of Henry E. and Elizabeth (Porter) Eberhardt. Henry E. Eberhardt was a native of Germany, on the banks of the Rhine. Elizabeth (Porter) Eberhardt was a native of Hay, Ontario, Canada. They located in Ionia, Michigan, in 1864, where they remained until the death of the husband. The widow married again and moved to Canada, where her death occurred. They were the parents of several children, two of whom lived to a mature age; the names of the two who died at the age of ten and eleven years were, Elizabeth and Homer.

JOHN H. WANDEL.

John H. Wandel, Cato township, Montcalm county, was born on September 20, 1862, on a farm which is now part of his homestead, being the eldest of the five children of John Adam and Martha M. (Meyers) Wandel and the only one of the family still residing in Cato township.

Martha (Meyers) Wandel was a native of Bavaria, in the German empire, and was brought to this state by her mother when a child of three years, the father having died in their native land. The mother located in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and there Martha grew to womanhood and lived until the time of her marriage. John Adam Wandel was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and when young mastered the weaver's trade, which he followed until thirty years of age. When thirty-eight years old he emigrated to America, locating for a time in Ohio and later going to Wisconsin. However, he did not settle permanently until he reached Cato township, Montcalm county, in October, 1860. Here he pre-empted forty acres of government land in section 22, and made his home there for the balance

of his life, owning eighty acres in all at the time of his death. John Adam Wandel was one of the first settlers in Cato township, which had been organized just before he came here and there were but eleven white families in all. Shortly afterward, on March 18, 1861, he was married in Wisconsin to Martha Meyers, as above stated, and this became their permanent home. There were five children born to their union, those other than John H., being Frances R., wife of Charles Bremer; James W., deceased; Harriet L., wife of Henry Lanely and George A.

John H. Wandel received but the limited education the school facilities of this section at that time afforded and from early boyhood, assisted in the farm work. He remained at home and after his father's death in 1884, he purchased, in 1885, the interests of the other heirs and has continued to make his home on the old family homestead. He has purchased additional land from time to time and he now owns two hundred and sixty-seven acres, located in sections 21 and 22. The commodious family residence was erected in 1907 and since that time Mr. Wandel has erected a large and modern barn. He divides his attention between general farming and the raising of live stock.

John H. Wandel has been twice married, his first wife, with whom he was united in marriage on November 2, 1884, was Lillian G. Ward, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a daughter of Walter and Jane (Baker) Ward. To this union were born four children, one of whom died in infancy, three remaining at the time of the mother's death on November 4, 1895. These were Henry M., Raymond W. and John A., but the death of Raymond occurred but twenty days after that of the mother, both being caused by typhoid fever, of which there was an epidemic at that time. On December 23, 1897, John H. Wandel was again married, his bride being Rhoda L. Bradley, born in Greenville, Montcalm county. She is a daughter of John and Eliza (Goodwell) Bradley, natives of England and Canada respectively. To Mr. Wandel and his second wife have been born four children, namely: Ruth and Ellen, both deceased; Stanley B. and Irene.

Mr. Wandel is a man of genial disposition, having many friends and greatly enjoying the sport of hunting. He rarely allows a year to pass without spending at least a week in the Northern Peninsula after deer, and he has in his home some excellent heads as trophies of his skill. He keeps well posted on current events and is a good conversationalist, being especially fond of discussing historical subjects, in which study he has always been interested. Mr. Wandel calls himself a Republican, but is practically

independent in voting as a rule, and has never sought public office. His wife is a most excellent woman and their home dispenses sincere cordiality to friend and transient guest, alike.

JUDGE LUCAS M. MIEL.

Lucas M. Miel, who for some years has occupied the bench of the Montcalm county probate court, and who for many years has been prominent in the public and official affairs of the community, was born in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, on August 10, 1859, the son of Charles H. and Martha A. (Swift) Miel, natives of New York state, the former born in Allegany county.

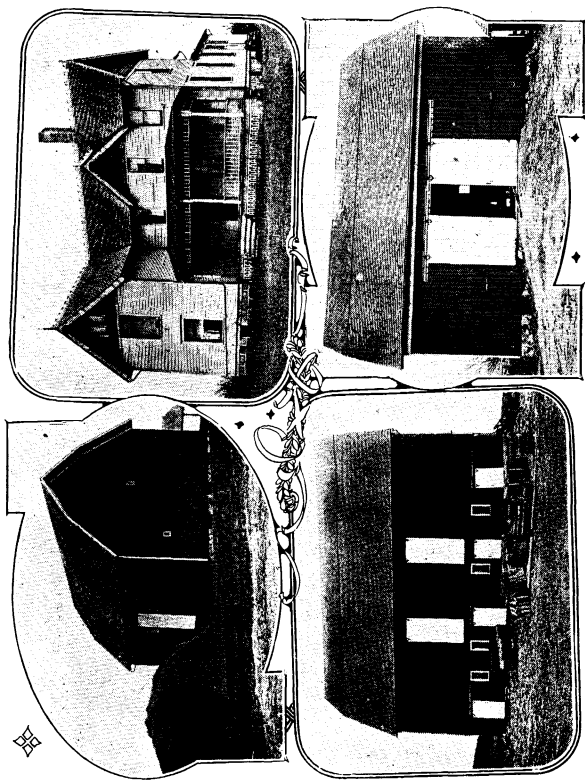
Charles H. Miel grew to maturity in his native county, where he was married, after which he came, in 1850, to Montcalm county, Michigan, and purchased a farm in Fairplain township, at a time when the county was yet unsettled and when the land was uncleared and unprepared for cultivation. Charles H. Miel engaged in general farming and in the operation of a saw-mill, together with dealing in lumber until 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Eighth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served with this company in the Civil War, until he was killed at the battle of James Island, during the year 1862. Martha, the widow of Charles H. Miel, died within a year of the death of her husband. In the public life of early days in Montcalm county, Charles H. Miel was a prominent citizen, he having served for many years as justice of the peace, while he was chairman of the county board of supervisors, during the term beginning in 1853.

After the death of his parents, Lucas M. Miel, together with the other four children of the family, were homeless, and following the enlistment of his eldest brother, Charles H., Jr., as a soldier of the Civil War, Lucas M. Miel was cared for in the various homes of his community, until he was twelve years of age, when he went to live with a farmer east of the town of Greenville, making his home at that place for the next seven years. For the following nine years Lucas M. Miel worked in the woods of the state, for three years of his time serving as a fireman. When sixteen years of age he bought eighty acres of land, in Belvidere township, Montcalm county, paying for his land with money which he earned as a worker in the woods.

When Lucas M. Miel located on his farm, which was the first real home of his recollection, he erected a primitive dwelling, cleared and culti-



JUDGE LUCAS M. MIEL AND FAMILY.



RESIDENCE AND FARM BUILDINGS OF JUDGE LUCAS M. MIEL.

vated his land, and raised live stock. He is the owner of four eighty-acre farms, all of which are well cared for and in a good state of cultivation.

When twenty-two years of age, Lucas M. Miel was married to Nettie Van Kuren, and to this marriage there was born one child, who died in infancy, shortly after which the wife and mother died. Lucas M. Miel was married five years later, to Lillian C. Palmer, who was born in Sidney township, Montcalm county, the daughter of Loren D. and Lydia Palmer, who came to Sidney township, from their home in New York, and engaged in agricultural life, for the remainder of their days. To the marriage of Lucas M. and Lillian C. Miel were born four children: Howard H., of McBride, who married Hattie Shannon and to whom has been born one son, Clifton Lucas, who was educated at the Ferris school, at Big Rapids, Michigan; Barbara, who is deceased; Gladys, who, after graduating from the Stanton high school and receiving special normal training, is now a teacher, at Rock Lake, and Helen E., who, after completing the course of study at the Stanton high school, is now a teacher at Vickeryville. Lillian C., the wife of Lucas M. Miel, died in 1903, and in 1905, Judge Miel was married to Marie Jensen, who was born in Denmark, the daughter of Soren and Minnie (Knudsen) Jensen, who came to America, and located in Belvidere township, where they now live. Lucas M. and Marie Miel are the parents of three children, Alice M., Charles Homer and Lucas S.

Judge Lucas M. Miel is one of the most honored men of public life, in Montcalm county, having served as chairman of the Republican county committee on several occasions, and for five years having occupied the office of county supervisor. He resigned this office to become treasurer of Montcalm county, an office to which he was elected and re-elected, and has served four years, to the satisfaction of all.

In 1908, Lucas M. Miel, after eight years as a farmer, was elected to the office of judge of the probate court, in Montcalm county, an office to which, after serving four years, Judge Miel, in 1912, was re-elected, and is now serving in this capacity. The experience of Judge Lucas M. Miel in early childhood and his life among the lumber workers of the community, has peculiarly fitted him for the care of the orphan children, who are wards of his court, and for the adjustment of the affairs which arise in connection with the lumber interests of the county, making this worthy occupant of the bench one of the most efficient jurists in the history of local courts.

Judge Lucas M. Miel has been active in the business interests of Montcalm county and adjoining counties. He has been an officer of the Ionia,

Montcalm and Clinton Counties Mutual Fire Insurance Company for thirteen years, three years of this period as director and ten years as president. This company has the reputation of being one of the strongest insurance corporations of the state of Michigan, ranking fourteenth among ninety companies known for the efficiency of their management.

Judge Lucas M. Miel devoted his time for one summer, as well as contributing liberally of his means, to the erection of the Congregational church at Six Lakes. He became a Christian at the age of twenty-one years and has since been a devout member of that church. Fraternally, he has been a member of the Masonic order since 1881; Modern Woodmen of America since 1903; Ancient Order of Gleaners in 1908, and has been a member of all of them since.

FRED BALL.

Fred Ball, a well-known farmer in this community, was born on December 16, 1853, in Genesee county, New York, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Cann) Ball, both natives of England, who came to America prior to their marriage which was solemnized in New York. William Ball was a farmer by occupation and engaged in this vocation subsequent to his establishing a residence in Flint, Genesee county, Michigan, in 1866. He was the father of thirteen children, all of whom are living, with the exception of one, and all are residents of Michigan, with the exception of two, William and Arch, who live in Washington and Redlands, California, respectively.

Fred Ball received a limited education in the common schools, as it devolved on him to assist in the support of the family. In 1873, he located in Montcalm county, where he was employed in the woods and saw-mills of the locality. Following his marriage, he purchased forty acres of land not far from a tract of forty acres which his wife owned, later adding seventy acres to the west of the other land. Ninety acres of this property is cleared and under cultivation and is devoted to general farming and stock raising. The uncleared portion of this well-regulated place contains a lake near which is established the summer camp of the family, the entire place being known as the "Oak Hill Farm." In national politics, Fred Ball is a Democrat, while in local elections he votes independently. He has held school offices ever since the school was established, and has also been assessor since

that time. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ball Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, the camp being named in his honor, and of which he has been treasurer since its inception, in 1898. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as well as of the Daughters of Rebekah, of which his wife is also a member.

On April 26, 1876, in Montcalm county, Fred Ball and Ella Wilcox were united in marriage, and to their union seven children were born, as follow; Myrtle E., who was born on August 25, 1877, married Walter Davis, of Flushing, Genesee county, Michigan, and they have three children, Laura, Mabel and Edna; Edna L., was born on October 20, 1879, and married Herman Wager, now deceased; they had one child, Helen; Ora L., September 11, 1881, and married Ella Nellis; their home is in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Frank E., September 5, 1883, married Eva Rapp; they have one child, Ora; Leon E., May 16, 1892; Loyd J., March 5, 1896, and married Bina Hinkley, and Arza W., September 3, 1898. Ella (Wilcox) Ball was born on May 5, 1859, in Greenville, Montcalm county, and is the daughter of Joseph and Lucy A. (Kingsley) Wilcox, both natives of New York, who located in Langston, Montcalm county, in 1865.

A. N. SHOOK.

A. N. Shook, the proprietor of a general mercantile establishment at Coral, Michigan, was born on September 26, 1869, the son of Daniel L. and Anna (Newell) Shook.

Daniel Shook was a native of the state of New York, where he was born on June 6, 1812, the son of Daniel Shook, of Dutch descent. Daniel Shook, the grandfather of A. N. Shook, came to Pierson township from Canada in 1863, having removed to the Dominion from his home in New York some years before. He was accompanied to the new home by his family, with the exception of the young Daniel L., who remained in Canada until the next year when he too joined the family. The senior Daniel Shook, was a man of much prominence in the new country, where he continued the practice of medicine until the time of his death.

Daniel L. Shook, after coming to his father's home in 1864, continued at his trade, that of a carpenter and maker of wooden pumps. In 1866 he established a store at what was then known as Edna postoffice, south of Howard City. Here he erected the first frame building in that section

and made this place his home until 1872 when he removed to Coral, where he conducted a store.

Daniel L. Shook was prominent in politics and served as township supervisor, treasurer and school officer for many years. In November, 1868, he was united in marriage to Anna Newell and to this union the following children were born: A. N., Ruth, the wife of C. A. Hall, of Hamilton, Ontario; George, Bessie and Gertrude, the last three being deceased.

A. N. Shook received his education in the public schools of Coral, and later attended the Kalamazoo high school. After completing his education he became identified with his father in the mercantile business, the partnership continuing until December, 1910, when the father died.

In December, 1894, A. N. Shook was united in marriage to Beatrice Sanderson, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Robert and Caroline (Leavens) Sanderson. The marriage took place in Coral. To this union have been born two children: Robert D., a graduate of the Coral high school and at present with the National Grocery Company, of Grand Rapids, and Harry H., a graduate of the high school, who is with his father in the store.

Mr. Shook is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons. He has also received the higher degrees at Clinton and at Grand Rapids. Politically, Mr. Shook is a Republican and represented his county in the state Legislature in 1903, 1905 and 1907. He was president of the Coral school board and was for two years secretary of the central committee of his party.

JOHN W. CLARK.

John W. Clark is one of the pioneers of this county and is well known, throughout this section. He was instrumental in building the county road, and hauled the first load of lumber used in building the first court house erected in this county. His birth occurred on April 24, 1843, in Tompkins county, New York, and is the son of Warren and Maria (Beckman) Clark, natives of Connecticut and Ohio, respectively.

The Clark family are of English descent and emigrated to America with the Pilgrim Fathers. Warren Clark was the son of Elithlet Clark, who was a drum-major in a regiment of infantry, during the War of the Revolution. His father also fought in that war, both serving directly

under Gen. George Washington. Warren Clark was always interested in agricultural pursuits and in 1854, he came to Eureka township, Montcalm county, driving from the town of Grotan, New York, to the city of Buffalo, New York, where they embarked on the steamer "Buffalo" bound for Detroit, Michigan. Upon their arrival in that city, they resumed their journey by team and continued to Rochester, Michigan, where a sister of Warren Clark was then residing. After a short visit in that town, they proceeded to Jackson, Michigan, by the same sort of conveyance and remained two months, after which they journeyed to Otisco, Ionia county, Michigan, where they remained until the following spring. At that time they moved to this county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land, on which they continued to live until death.

John W. Clark had but limited opportunities for education. In those days, his playmates were Indians, with whom they traded small trinkets in exchange for venison, which was so plentiful at that time. Grand Rapids was the nearest trading point, and fifty cents per bushel was the prevailing price of wheat, and which was more often paid for in trade than in cash. In February, 1861, John W. Clark and Catherine E. Mead were united in marriage and two children were born of their union, namely, George L., who married Sarah Shutts and now resides in Pine township, this county. They are the parents of four children, Elmer L., John L., Wilma C. and Winnie. Herbert E., the second son, lives at home with his parents. Catherine E. (Mead) Clark was born in New Jersey, and was the daughter of Calvin H. and Sarah (Compton) Mead, both believed to be natives of New Jersey. They came to Michigan in 1850 and located near the town of Greenville, Montcalm county, where they remained until death. Catherine E. (Mead) Clark passed away on June 15, 1913, leaving her husband and children to mourn her loss.

In 1864, John W. Clark enlisted in defense of his country, in Company E, Tenth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, serving under Captain Dunn and Colonel Tobridge, until the close of the Civil War. He participated in the siege of Nashville, Tennessee, and in many other battles of that terrible conflict. After his marriage, he purchased forty acres of land from his father and continued to cultivate until his second purchase of eighty acres, in Pine township, this county, disposing of this later that he might move to Greenville, Michigan. Here he lived for nine years, gradually gaining considerable interest in the lumber business, along Flat river, but after many misfortunes he lost everything and was forced to begin at the bottom. His

new start in life was gained by excavating for brick buildings, which were just beginning to be erected in that locality. He has since come to the front and his farm is one of the best in the vicinity. In 1878, he purchased eighty acres in Pine township, of this county, and from this has evolved his competency. Politically, Mr. Clark is a strong Republican, but has never aspired to office, although he has served in several minor ones. On December 9, 1915, Mr. Clark married his present wife, who was Mrs. Clara Hoffman, of Pine township.

BREDE A. PAULSON.

Among the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Brede A. Paulson, who was born near Trondhjem, Norway, September 26, 1857, the son of Andreas and Bertha Martha (Thompson) Falin, natives of Norway, the former of whom died in that country, after which his widow was married to Peter Paulson.

About the year 1870, Brede A. Paulson, together with his mother, step-father and three brothers and three sisters, came to America, and located in Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where Peter Paulson owned forty acres of land, and in which community the elder Paulson purchased forty acres more, on which he made his home, while he bought and cared for eighty acres more of land nearby, in the same township. Andreas and Bertha Martha Falin were the parents of the following children: Brede; John, of San Francisco, California; Andrew, of Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan; Peter, of Idaho; Ole, who lives with his brother, Brede; Martha, the wife of Charles Englebretsen, of Winfield township; Christian, of San Francisco, California, and Nellie, of San Francisco.

Brede A. Paulson lived at home until nineteen years of age, when, having completed his education, he worked on neighboring farms for some time and then bought forty acres of land, which he cleared of the timber and with the proceeds of the sale of his timber Mr. Paulson purchased forty acres more near Coral, Montcalm county, selling the timber from this land, the income from which he again used for the purchase of forty acres of land, on which he lived until after his marriage, when Brede A. Paulson disposed of his original farm and bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, located in section 16, Winfield township, which he now cultivates as a general farmer and on which he makes a specialty of raising high-quality Ohio Improved Chester White hogs. In addition to the farm

of his residence Brede A. Paulson is the owner of five hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 23, 24 and 28, of Winfield township, Montcalm county.

During the month of October, 1878, Brede A. Paulson was married to Thea Bjronstadt, who was born in Trondhjem, Norway, and who came to America when a young girl. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Paulson have been born four children: Clara, who after her graduation from the Howard City high school taught school until her marriage to Arthur Shuman, of Sparta, Michigan; Thora, who after her graduation from the Ypsilanti State Normal College became a school teacher, having taught one year in Michigan, three years in Montana, four years at Goldfield, Nevada, and now is teaching her third year in Cilaifornia; Malina, the wife of Lorin Duggert, of Alto, Michigan, and Arthur, a graduate of the Howard City high school, who is preparing to enter the University of Michigan. Mr. Paulson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Winfield township, and is prominent in the work and worship of this denomination. In politics, Brede A. Paulson is a Republican.

JAMES W. FRIEDT.

James W. Friedt is a worthy representative of the Friedt family and an esteemed citizen of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He is a native of Springfield township, Allen county, Indiana, his birth having occurred on November 16, 1871, in that locality. He is the son of David and Mary E. (Brown) Friedt, natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively.

David Friedt was born on April 8, 1849, in Greene township, Ashland county, Ohio, and is the son of John and Susan (Moudy) Friedt. John Friedt being the son of Jacob Friedt, who was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and of German and Swiss descent. Susan Moudy was a native of Pennsylvania and was the daughter of John Moudy, of German descent. John Friedt was first married to Lydia Zimmerman, of Pennsylvania, and to them were born these children: Jacob, now living in Allen county, Indiana, and enjoying his ninety-third year; Rebecca, deceased; Henry, now living in Osborne, Kansas, in his eighty-seventh year; John, deceased; George, now living in Noble county, Indiana, in his eighty-fourth year; Sarah, widow of John Carper, now residing four miles south of

Auburn, Dekalb county, Indiana; Mary, wife of Baron Notestine, of Porter county, Indiana, now deceased; Lydia, deceased; Samuel, who died when twenty-two years of age, and two others who died in infancy. Lydia (Zimmerman) Friedt died in Ashland county, Ohio, and John Friedt then married Susan Moudy, who was a widow and the mother of two children by her first union: Wesley, who died in Allen county, Indiana, and Elizabeth, widow of Jacob Hursh, now living four miles east of Hunter, Indiana. Susan Moudy was the widow of David Nelson. To the union of John Friedt and Susan Moudy were born the children whose names follow: Susanna, wife of William Brown, living one mile west of Harlan, Allen county, Indiana; David W.; Jane, wife of DeGross Herrick, also living in Harlan, Allen county, Indiana; Luella, who died in infancy, and Arilla, widow of Joseph Brown, now residing in Maple Valley township, of this county.

David Friedt was reared on the home farm and remained there until after his marriage, removing with his family to Michigan in 1885 and immediately locating on the farm where he still resides. On April 22, 1868, he was married to Mary Eliza Brown, daughter of William and Elizabeth Brown, and they are the parents of six children, whose names follow: James William, of Maple Valley, Michigan; John Franklin, deceased; Clarence E., a resident of Flint, Michigan; Zola, wife of Orange VanZile, now living in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; George C., living in Flint, Michigan, and Florence E., now Mrs. Clifford Ermitage, of Maple Valley township. Mary Eliza Brown was born in Allen county, Indiana, and her mother was a native of Pennsylvania. Both David Friedt and his wife are members of the United Brethren church of Maple Valley, Michigan, and are active in class work, David Friedt having been the superintendent of the Sunday school for a great many years. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist and has served his community in the capacity of school treasurer for one term.

James W. Friedt was fourteen years of age when his parents removed to Michigan and he is indebted to the schools of Allen county, Indiana, as well as to those of Maple Valley, Michigan, for the education which he received. He remained at home until he reached maturity, at which time he married Millie Buchanan, the ceremony being solemnized on March 30, 1892. Millie Buchanan was born on December 8, 1871, in Maple Valley township, this county, and is the daughter of Robert L. and Emily M. (Baker) Buchanan. She was reared and educated in her native township.

Herself and husband are active members of the United Brethren church, being leaders of the Sunday school and ardent supporters of the church interests. James W. Friedt is now serving as trustee of this denomination. He is an earnest worker for the Republican party, taking great interest in each election.

Robert L. Buchanan, father of Millie B. (Buchanan) Friedt, was born on October 12, 1832, in Pennsylvania, while his wife is a native of New York state, her birth having occurred on March 19, 1836, in Tompkins county. Her death occurred in 1908. She was married in the state of her nativity and removed to Michigan in 1863, where her husband enlisted in Company B, of the Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the Civil War. Nine children were born to the union of Robert L. and Emily M. (Baker) Buchanan, of whom are now living: Oscar D., of Stanton, Michigan; Hattie, wife of Byron Gage; Betsey, wife of Homer Huff; Alban, deceased; Estella, deceased wife of James Hayes; Lottie; John, living in Cowden Lake; Cora, wife of George Wheeler, and Millie, wife of James W. Friedt.

OTTO C. WALDO.

In the character of Otto C. Waldo is found the type of business man whose interests are largely centered upon the development of the community in which he lives. A native of Montcalm county, there is no aspect of its industrial prosperity with which he is not familiar. He whose name initiates this sketch was born on April 17, 1888, at Amble, Michigan, on the old Waldo homestead in Winfield township, of Montcalm county. His parents, Louis and Lena (Lapper) Waldo, were natives of Germany and were reared in the vicinity of the city of Berlin. As a young man the father of the subject of this sketch served in the German army, where he ranked as an officer, a position which carries with it a great deal of precedence in the Rhine country. He fought in the German war of forty-six years ago and after his retirement from service, at the close of the conflicts, obtained a place as manager of an extensive and wealthy estate, where he acted as foreman over a number of workmen. After his marriage, which was solemnized in his native land, Louis Waldo came to this country with his wife, which was probably in the year 1875. Upon arriving in the United

States they were attracted to the Middle West, and as a result settled in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Here the resources of Mr. Waldo were exhausted and he was obliged to seek a place of employment at once. He used the last part of his savings on a trip to Howard City, Michigan, where he met with success and later sent for his wife to join him. In this new location he worked at several forms of employment for a period of seven years and during that time accumulated sufficient capital to enable him to purchase a farm consisting of eighty acres. He lived on the farm until the time of his death, and during his life as a farmer added two hundred acres of land to the original tract of eighty acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Waldo became the parents of the following children: William, who died when a child; Minnie, who became the wife of Richard Uecker, a business man of Anble; Charles, who resides with his mother on the homestead; Lewis, who lives on part of the old homestead; August, a farmer of Winfield township and also a landowner in Mecosta county, and Otto C., who is the subject of this sketch.

Otto C. Waldo was educated in the common schools of Winfield township, and after completing the course assisted his father with the work on the farm until he was twenty years of age. He then came to Anble, Michigan, where he has been identified with the business world ever since. The various lines of activity in which the subject of this sketch has been engaged have made him a well-known figure in the community and a friend to all classes. He is interested principally in the buying of produce and aside from this deals in coal and lumber. He is also prominently identified with the Farmers Elevator Company. Mr. Waldo has been in business for himself since 1908, and since that time has added to his reputation as a man of executive ability.

The marriage of Otto C. Waldo to Dora Larson, the daughter of Mads Larson, and a native of Michigan, took place on June 4, 1908. Her parents were born in Denmark. Mrs. Waldo has become the mother of the following children: Lawrence, Donald Raymond and Crystal Hannah.

In his political interests the subject of this sketch has always given loyal support to the principles of the Republican party. He is also deeply interested in educational affairs, and for three years acted as school director in his school district. In fraternal affairs, Mr. Waldo holds membership in Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and since twenty years of age has been enrolled with the Canadian Life Endowment Company.

CHARLES WALKLEY LADU.

Charles Walkley LaDu, editor of the *Crystal Mail*, at Crystal, this county, was born on January 20, 1873, son of George Jacob and Catherine (Minore) LaDu, who for years have been living on a farm near Coral, this county, prominent and influential residents of that section, the former of whom is the son of the late Rev. Statham W. LaDu, minister of the Gospel and legislator, who for many years was one of the most influential men in this section of the state, in a biographical sketch of whom, presented elsewhere in this volume, is set out at some detail something of the genealogy of this family.

Charles W. LaDu was but an infant when his parents came to Montcalm county in 1874, and he was ten years of age when they moved to Manitoba, where they remained for about fourteen years on a farm. He therefore was reared to the life of the farm. When he was twenty-four years of age he moved to Munising, in the upper peninsula of Michigan, where his father was for some years engaged as supervisor of the state hospital for the insane at Newberry. He learned the printer's trade at Munising. While there, in 1899, he married and the next year, 1900, returned to this county, the home of his boyhood, and bought the *Crystal Mail*, which had but recently been established in the pleasant village of Crystal, and has been owner and editor of the paper ever since, during which time he has made it a strong and influential newspaper. The building in which Mr. LaDu houses his excellent newspaper and printing plant was constructed especially for that purpose and leaves little, if anything, to be desired along that line. Mr. LaDu is constantly seeking to improve his plant and his paper and his mechanical equipment is as good as any in a town the size of Crystal in the state of Michigan; his work in the printing line consequently being up-to-date and of high grade. His newspaper serves a wide territory hereabout, the nearest newspapers being at Carson City and Stanton, and therefore has a fine circulation, its high tone and excellent qualities as a newspaper commanding in its behalf the respect and admiration of a large circle of faithful readers in the territory it so admirably covers.

Mr. LaDu for years has taken a close personal interest in the political affairs of this county and district. He served as secretary of the Montcalm county Republican committee for two years and as chairman of the same for two years, while for four years he was a member of the Republican

committee for this congressional district and for the past fifteen years has been the committeeman for his party in Crystal township. On September 1, 1909, he was appointed deputy state oil inspector and served in that important public capacity for five years and two months. He is now treasurer of Crystal township and in other ways has shown his interest in behalf of the public service, being regarded as one of the most active and public-spirited citizens of Montcalm county.

In 1899 Charles W. LaDu was united in marriage, at Munising, this state, to Ada Louise Branch, who was born at Otisville, Michigan, daughter of M. F. and Mary Louise (Graham) Branch, the latter of whom died when Mrs. LaDu was a small girl. M. F. Branch moved to Munising when his daughter was a girl of about seventeen years, and there engaged in the lumber business and was later made town marshal, which official position he filled for several years. Mr. Branch died in Denver, Colorado, in which city he was engaged as a building contractor during the later years of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. LaDu one child has been born, a son, Stalham Wakley, born in 1909.

Mr. LaDu is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and has filled all the offices in the local lodges of those two orders and is also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and of the Daughters of Rebekah, Mrs. LaDu having filled the office of worthy matron of the local lodge of the Order of the Eastern Star, and Mr. LaDu, worthy patron of the same. Both take their proper place in the various social and cultural activities of the community and are held in high regard among their many friends.

NATHAN O. BOYLAN.

Nathan O. Boylan, of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is both respected as a citizen and as a farmer and though quiet and unassuming in his manner, has won many friends throughout the community in which he lives. He is the son of Charles and Sarah (Parker) Boylan, and his birth occurred on March 28, 1879, in Pine township, of this county. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania and came, each with their parents, to Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where their marriage was solemnized. Charles Boylan died in 1911 but his wife still resides on the home place, which consists of forty acres. They were

the parents of three children, two of whom are now living, namely: Nathan O. and Glen M., the latter being engaged in the cultivation of the home place.

Nathan O. Boylan was reared on the home farm and received his education in the district schools of Pine township. On August 23, 1897, he was united in marriage to Lula Gage, and to them have been born these children: Charles, born on January 11, 1899, a graduate of the graded schools; Leonard, August 23, 1900; Grace, July 28, 1902; Stanley, January 13, 1907, and Alice, August 19, 1912. Nathan O. Boylan is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America and carries insurance in this order. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat, and is a director of the school board in this township. In the agricultural field he is engaged in general farming and in the breeding of "Victor" hogs.

JAMES H. KNAPP.

James H. Knapp, prominent farmer and dairyman, and a man well known for his part in the affairs of Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Steuben county, Indiana, November 30, 1861, the son of O. J. and Ermina (Edmunds) Knapp.

O. J. Knapp grew to maturity in New York state, and when a young man moved to Noble county, Indiana, where he lived until 1862, and then, his wife having died, Mr. Knapp enlisted with an Indiana regiment for service in the Civil War and was with the armies of Generals Grant and Sherman until the end of the war. After his discharge from military service, Mr. Knapp came to the state of Michigan and located at Howard City, where he conducted a store for a number of years. O. J. and Ermina Knapp were the parents of two children: Henrietta, who is deceased, and James H., the subject of this sketch.

James H. Knapp, after the death of his mother, became a part of the household of the Zigler family, of Noble county, Indiana, where he was educated and with whom he lived until twenty-eight years of age, when Mr. Knapp was married, after which he came to Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, and worked in the store of his father for about two years. Later, James H. Knapp purchased forty acres of land in Winfield township, a place which he improved and a farm to which he has added land at various times until now he is the owner of two hundred acres of

land in sections 9 and 17, of Winfield township. On his excellent farm, James H. Knapp now is extensively engaged in general farming, in the raising of high-grade Holstein cattle and in the dairy business.

On February 11, 1890, James H. Knapp was married to Myrtie Fike, a daughter of James and Sarah (Lint) Fike, of Noble county, Indiana. To the marriage of James H. and Myrtie Knapp have been born four children: Mabel, who died in infancy; Alta May, who is the wife of Benjamin Englebreton; Hazen Harold, who lives at home, and Ruby, who died in infancy.

In politics, Mr. Knapp is a Republican, although he has not aspired to public office, preferring to serve as a private citizen and as a worker in the ranks of his party. James H. Knapp is one of the highly respected citizens of Montcalm county, his pleasing ways and unselfish nature having won for him a host of friends.

GEORGE A. ARBOGAST.

George A. Arbogast is one of the leading agriculturists and citizens of Montcalm county, Michigan, the Arbogast farm, which he owns and manages, being known as one of the best in this section. It is located southeast of Howard City, Michigan, and one mile west of the town of Coral. A specialty is made of breeding purebred Roan Shorthorn cattle, and "Gordon" is the leader of the herd. George A. Arbogast has also been elected to serve in office and is now acting as treasurer of the school board. His birth occurred on October 10, 1868, in Canada, and his parents were Michael and Margaret (Brunner) Arbogast, both natives of that dominion, where their marriage was solemnized. They removed to Michigan in 1880 and located on three hundred and twenty acres of land which they purchased. This property was located in sections 8 and 7, in Maple Valley township, of this county, and here they remained until his death, in 1885. Margaret (Brunner) Arbogast reared her family of children and operated the farm until her death, in 1908. Of the nine children born to this union eight are now living: John, a speculator on the board of trade in Chicago, Illinois; Edward, a farmer of Pine Grove township, Montcalm county; George A.; Emma, wife of George Hinkle, a farmer living in Pierson township; Clara, **wife of Andrew Voss**, who is a resident of Lake county, Michigan; Mary, wife of Martin Straight, of Carson City, Michigan; Michael, a farmer of Maple Valley township, of this county; Margaret, deceased, and Carrie,

wife of George Rader, of Pierson township. All of these children were born in Canada, with the exception of Carrie, who was born in this county.

George A. Arbogast was twelve years of age when his parents came to Montcalm county and is indebted to the schools of Canada, as well as to those of this locality, for the education which he received. On January 15, 1906, he was married to Blanch Edgar, a native of Cato township, of this county, and they became the parents of one child, Robert G., whose birth occurred on February 16, 1907. Blanch (Edgar) Arbogast was educated in the graded schools of Cato township and in the high school of Lake View, Michigan. George A. Arbogast is an able farmer and there are no finer farm buildings in this county than those which meet all needs of comfort on this one-hundred-and-sixty-acre place.

J. E. SKEOCH.

J. E. Skeoch is a very efficient farmer, a progressive citizen and a man of character. Of Canadian birth and of Scotch descent, he has proven himself a worthy representative of his chosen calling, and in all walks of life he is respected by those who know him. He is the son of John and Christena (Soules) Skeoch, and was born on June 18, 1867. John Skeoch was born in Scotland, emigrating to Canada with his parents when but three years of age. His wife was a native of Canada, and they were married in that dominion, removing to Michigan in 1867. They located in Kent county for a short time and then located in Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, where they remained. It was in this place that the death of John Skeoch occurred and where the mother died on February 6, 1916. They were the parents of four children: Minnie, wife of E. Durkee, of Maple Valley township; J. E.; Robert M., a farmer living on the home-stead, and Bertie, who married Jay Cooper, and is a resident of Kent county, Michigan.

J. E. Skeoch was but six months of age when he became a resident of this state and was reared and educated in the locality where he still resides. He attended school until he was seventeen years of age, remaining with his parents until he reached his majority. At the age of twenty-eight years he formed a partnership with E. L. Soules, which partnership continued for some time. He is a self-made man and owes his success to his own ability.

On September 20, 1889, J. E. Skeoch was united in marriage to Blanch

Cryster, daughter of George and Lydia Cryster, and they are the parents of the children whose names follow: W. J., a graduate of the Ferris Institute, in which institution he took a commercial course, and J. Ambrose, who is a student in the local high school. In his fraternal relations, J. E. Skeoch is a member of the Trufant Lodge No. 456, Free and Accepted Masons. Politically, he is a Republican, holding the office of highway commissioner and school director. The farm which he owns and manages consists of one hundred acres of well-improved land, known as the "Maple Valley Farm," and is devoted to general agriculture and stock raising. This place is located southeast of the town of Coral, Michigan, and is known for the high grade of Belgian horses which have become a specialty with its owner.

HENRY LUTTERLOH.

Henry Lutterloh, widely known and highly respected farmer of Winfield township, Montcalm county, where he cultivates one of the best improved and most desirable farms of the community, was born in Germany, June 15, 1840, living in his native country as farmer and as a soldier, until as a young man he came to America, working his way to this country on a steamboat.

On reaching America, Henry Lutterloh located in New York state, where he was employed in a glass factory for some time, after which he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1871, and worked in the woods near Howard City a few years. Later, Mr. Lutterloh became a farmer, at the time of his marriage taking charge of forty acres of land which was owned by his wife, a place which Henry Lutterloh improved and to which he added land until now Mr. Lutterloh is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable and in Winfield township, Montcalm county. As a progressive farmer, Henry Lutterloh has taken great interest and pride in the development of his farm into one of the most modern and convenient places for agricultural life to be found in the county, having erected one of the best equipped and arranged barns, as well as a large and suitable silo for the care of his products.

During the year 1878 Henry Lutterloh was married to Reka Schnick, who was born in Germany. To this marriage have been born ten children, eight of whom are living: Willie, Otto, Fred, Henry, Anna, Mary, Herman and Hattie. Mr. Lutterloh and his family are active members of the

German Lutheran church, Mr. Lutterloh being prominent and influential in the affairs and in the worship of this congregation. Henry Lutterloh has occupied several offices of his church and is highly honored for his part and for his devotion to the church of his choice. Mrs. Lutterloh died on June 14, 1915, after a long and useful life.

The life of Henry Lutterloh is a fair example of perseverance and devotion to purpose, with the result that he is today one of the prosperous farmers of the county. Coming to America without means and by honesty and fair dealing to have risen to a place of note among the agriculturists of Montcalm county, he has shown himself to be a man of unusual worth to the community.

In politics, Mr. Lutterloh is a Republican and although he has taken no especial part in the political or official life of the community, he is known as a man who supports good men for office, and as a man who lends of his time and efforts for the promotion of good citizenship and honest effort in official life.

JOHN H. FENDER.

John H. Fender, farmer and business man of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is a worthy representative of the commercial and agricultural interests of the county and is highly respected as a citizen. He owns and manages a farm of eighty acres and at the same time operates a plant for the manufacture of concrete burial vaults, also making concrete blocks and bricks. This industry is located on his place, which is known as "Willow Farm," and is situated northwest of the town of Coral. He was born on July 18, 1878, in Henry county, Ohio, and is the son of Michael and Laura (Hubert) Fender. Michael Fender was a native of Germany, while his wife was born in New York state, of German and English descent. They removed to Ionia county, Michigan, in 1880, and in 1894 they located in Maple Valley township, Montcalm county. They purchased a farm which was situated southeast of the town of Coral, remaining there for a period of four years, and then removed to Mecosta county, Michigan, where they lived until death. Of the seven children born of their union, only five are now living: Emma, wife of Peter Desgranges; Daisy, widow of Charles Spence; Della, wife of E. A. Desgranges; John H.; Clara, wife of Alexander Dangler.

John H. Fender was reared on the home place and remained under the parental roof until he reached his majority, receiving his education in the district schools of Montcalm county. On December 8, 1897, he was married to Gertrude Fisher, a native of Coral, Michigan, and to their union have been born six children: Marion, Clarence, Grace, Ruth, James and Melvina. John H. Fender and his wife are members of the Congregational church. In his fraternal relations, he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and in his political life he is a staunch Republican, and has served as highway commissioner for one year.

REV. STALHAM W. LADU.

In the annals of Montcalm county there are few names more distinguished or more highly entitled to honor than that of the late Rev. Stalham W. LaDu, for many years one of the most conspicuous figures in the Methodist church in the North country and a state legislator of commanding influence in Michigan. Worn by years of continuous and incessant activity in behalf of the church, whose cause ever was dear to his heart, the Rev. Stalham W. LaDu sought the health-giving breath of the great forests hereabout in the early seventies and in the lumber woods found physical restoration, ever after making Montcalm county his home. As was but natural to one of his vigorous intellect, he early became a dominant factor in the social and civic development of this section and as a member of the state Legislature performed a signal service in behalf of the people of Michigan. At the close of Mr. LaDu's second term of legislative service, the *Detroit Free Press* editorially commended him as having been "as faithful and efficient a legislator as ever held a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives." Ever an earnest advocate of temperance, his service in that behalf during his presence in the House proved particularly valuable to the people of the state and his name, during that period, became a household word throughout all Michigan, many of the laws now on the statute books regulating the liquor traffic in this state having been put there mainly through his zealous efforts. As has been so fitly said of him, the Rev. Stalham W. LaDu "was a man of profound convictions and possessed in a remarkable degree the graces that make a man strong and at the same time attractive. In character he was a clean and consistent gentleman."

Stalham W. LaDu was born in the town of Fishkill, in Dutchess county,

New York, February 28, 1823, son of Jacob and Hannah (Cure) LaDu, the former of Huguenot descent. Jacob LaDu was born on January 3, 1780, son of Oliver and Sarah (Coniff) LaDu, Oliver LaDu, born on August 23, 1726, having been the son of Peter C. and Ann LaDu. Several lines of descent from Peter C. LaDu are represented in this country, some of the present members of the family spelling the name "LaDue." On coming to America to escape religious persecution, the LaDus settled first in lower Canada and later located in Dutchess county, New York, where the subject of this sketch was born. When Stalham W. LaDu was thirteen years old he moved with his family to Clarkston, in Richland county, New York, and three years later to Wayne county, same state, where he remained about five years. At the age of nineteen he was converted to an ardent religious habit of mind at a Methodist revival and was soon thereafter licensed to exhort, immediately entering upon a course of study in preparation to devoting himself to the ministry of the Gospel, a course pursued partly by home study, under the guidance of a minister of the Methodist church, which he supplemented by a two-years course at Red Creek Union Academy. At the age of twenty-two, out of funds, he and a companion went to Canada, where, in Northumberland county, he engaged his services as a school teacher. During this term of service he also preached in the school house on Sundays, and it was there he obtained the first of the great number of converts that were added to him during his later and notable career as an evangelist. He followed the same course in other localities in Canada, with like results, for several years and finally decided to enter definitely the following of the ministry. In 1845 the Rev. Stalham W. LaDu formally entered the ministry and, under the direction of the Methodist conference, began conducting revivals, invariably meeting with splendid success, presently becoming a man of commanding influence in the Methodist church in Canada. He was one of the founders of Albert University, at Belleville, Ontario, and served as a member of the board of managers of that institution until he came to Michigan and was also for four years presiding elder of the Colburn district in Canada.

In 1867 the Rev. Stalham W. LaDu came to Michigan and for some time was stationed at Calumet, in the upper peninsula. Later he was sent to western Wisconsin and after a while was sent back to Canada, where he was made presiding elder of the St. Lawrence district. His health then failing under the incessant strain of his active labors, he presently retired from the ministry, and in 1874 returned to Michigan and made his home in

Coral, this county, which ever afterward was his place of abode. Working in the lumber woods thereabout and actively engaging in farming, Mr. LaDu shortly regained his health and at once became an active figure in local affairs, his influence speedily extending to all parts of the state. His interest in political affairs and his devotion to the cause of good government caused him to take an active part in civic affairs, and he became a familiar figure in political conventions in county, district and state. He was elected to represent this district in the lower house of the state Legislature and served for two terms, 1881-84, his conspicuous abilities easily giving him a prominent position in that body. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for governor at one time and his friends could have obtained for him the nomination for the office of lieutenant-governor at another time, but he withdrew his name in the latter instance in order that he might be free to accept the more lucrative position of state oil inspector, which office he held for two years with credit both to himself and to the state. During the last quarter century of his life, Mr. LaDu devoted his energies chiefly to church and good works in and about Coral and at his death there, on October 3, 1910, left a good memory.

The Rev. Stalham W. LaDu married Clarissa M. Gaffield, a native of Canada, many of whose kinsfolk are well-known residents of this county, including Wesley J. Gaffield, former sheriff of Montcalm county, and Benjamin L. Gaffield, former county treasurer, and to this union three children were born. Mrs. Hannah Minore, George Jacob LaDu and Mrs. Ella Bibby.

George Jacob LaDu, a well-known resident of this county, was born in 1850, and was never any other than an American citizen, because his father was American born and ever remained a citizen of the United States, notwithstanding his long residence in Canada. Upon the removal of the LaDu family to this county in 1874, George J. LaDu became a resident of the Coral neighborhood and has lived there most of the time since. In the spring of 1883 he went to Manitoba and remained there about eleven years, engaged in farming, after which he took a position in the hospital for the insane in that province and was thus engaged for four years. He then returned to Michigan and was appointed supervisor of the upper peninsula hospital for the insane, a position he held until he was compelled to retire on account of injuries received at the hands of an inmate about 1898. Mr. LaDu has since then resided on his farm near Coral, this county, and is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens thereabout. He married Catherine Minore, who was born in Ottawa, Canada, daughter of William

and Elizabeth (Walkley) Minore, the latter of whom was the daughter of Enoch Walkley, who owned a portion of the land on which the city of Ottawa now stands. To this union eight children were born, of whom four died in infancy and Fred H. was killed by the cars while working as a brakeman for the Pere Marquette railroad, at Plymouth, April 27, 1910, the surviving children being Charles Walkley, editor of the *Crystal Mail*, at Crystal, this county, a biographical sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; William Lorne and J. Harry.

CLARK J. DRUMMOND.

Having been a resident of this county for over half a century, Clark J. Drummond has acquired a wide acquaintance throughout this section, and after a long period of service in the postoffice at Greenville, this county, he is now living retired from active business affairs.

Clark J. Drummond was born on October 16, 1849, at Bombay, Franklin county, New York, a son of J. B. and Isabella (Deans) Drummond, the former of whom was a native of New York state, and the latter a native of Scotland.

The father of J. B. Drummond was born in England and emigrated to America at an early date and settled in St. Lawrence county, New York, near the Franklin county line. There J. B. Drummond grew to manhood and secured an excellent education for that day. He was married in St. Lawrence county to Isabella Deans, who was born in Scotland and who came to America with her parents when she was four years of age. The Deans family also located in St. Lawrence county, New York. J. B. Drummond became a minister in the Baptist church and for several years worked zealously in that calling, when, on account of failing health, he resigned from the ministry and took up the study of medicine at Albany, New York. Doctor Drummond entered upon the practice of his profession at Hartford, Washington county, New York, and also practiced at several other towns in that vicinity. In 1863 Doctor Drummond removed to Clarkston, Oakland county, Michigan, and was located there for one year. He then brought his family to Greenville, this county, and was here actively engaged until about four years before his death, in 1876.

J. B. Drummond was a highly respected and influential man in his

day. He took a great deal of interest in religious affairs and built the Baptist church in Greenville. He was one of the prime movers in holding a big revival in Greenville in 1865, the influence of which was long felt in this community. Mrs. Isabella (Deans) Drummond died in 1894.

J. B. and Isabella (Deans) Drummond were the parents of nine children, all of whom grew to maturity, and five are now living: Eliza, widow of Rufus Waller; Anna, wife of Rev. D. E. Hills, both being now deceased; Cornelia, wife of Charles Kyle, both are now deceased; Cynthia, wife of Daniel Wilcox, both are now deceased; Hattie T., widow of Rastus Reed; Maggie D., widow of Newell J. Moore, lives in Albion, Michigan; Lottie, deceased, was the wife of Bernard J. Growve, and lived in Detroit, Michigan; Clark J., the subject of this sketch, and Alvin A., who lives in Springfield, Missouri.

Clark J. Drummond acquired such educational training as was available in the schools of his native county, and lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years old. He was married on July 2, 1874, to Emma Day, a daughter of D. W. and Esther (Day) Day, the latter of whom was born near Erie, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Day were the parents of four children, namely: Julia, deceased, was the wife of Francis Beldig; Oscar lives in Belding, Michigan; Loren, deceased, lived in Granville, Michigan; Emma is the wife of Clark J. Drummond.

Mr. Drummond was engaged in the lumber business as a salesman for about twenty years, representing one of the numerous companies of Michigan when the lumber business in this state was in its prime. In 1898 Mr. Drummond was appointed postmaster of Greenville, and served efficiently in that capacity until 1906. After that date he was retained in the office by his successor as deputy postmaster for seven years, until 1913. Since the close of his service in the postoffice Mr. Drummond has lived retired in his home at Greenville, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark J. Drummond adopted a child, Irma Harris, when she was three years old, and she now is the wife of Bert Van Norman. They live in Detroit, and have one child, Louise.

Clark J. Drummond is a Republican, and although he is a staunch party man he is ever ready to aid in every movement that will be of benefit to the community. He is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, and Chapter No. 96, Royal Arch Masons. Mr. Drummond is a charter member of Leroy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias.

CHARLES SWARTHOUT.

Charles Swarthout, well-known retired farmer and prominent citizen of Crystal, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Wayne township, Steuben county, New York, February 21, 1841, a son of Ralph and Sally (Beach) Swarthout.

Following his education, received in the public schools of his native county, Charles Swarthout worked on the home farm until 1861, when he enlisted in Company A, Sixteenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, a command with which he served his enlistment period of three months, during this time participating in the first battle of Bull Run. About one month after the expiration of his first enlistment, Charles Swarthout again enlisted for service in the Civil War, this time with Company I, Eighty-fifth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and while serving in this command Mr. Swarthout took part in the Peninsular campaign, with General McClellan, including the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Mechanicsville, and the seven days' fight in the retreat from in front of Richmond and Harrison's Landing. In the battle of Malvern Hill, Charles Swarthout was severely wounded, as a result of which he was discharged in January, 1863. About one month after his discharge from military service, Mr. Swarthout returned to Steuben county, New York, where he remained one year and then came to the state of Michigan, locating at Muir, Ionia county, where he engaged in his trade as a carpenter. In the year 1879 Mr. Swarthout purchased one hundred acres of timber land on the north shore of Crystal lake, in Montcalm county, land which, after years of hard work, he cleared and cultivated as a general farmer until 1896, when he sold his farm and moved to the town of Crystal, where he has since lived a retired life, with the exception of five years, when he was a rural mail carrier from the Crystal postoffice.

During the autumn of the year 1863 Charles Swarthout was married to Julia Churchill, who was born in Tyrone township, Steuben county, New York, a daughter of Joseph and Abigail Churchill. To the marriage of Charles and Julia Swarthout were born three children: Clarence and Edwin, who live in Ferris township, Montcalm county, and Fannie, who is the wife of C. H. Braman, living on the north shore of Lake Crystal.

On August 4, 1885, Julia, the wife of Charles Swarthout, died, and about four years later, on March 14, 1889, Mr. Swarthout was married, secondly, to May Clark, who was born at Brownstown, Monroe county, Michigan, a daughter of Lorenzo and Elizabeth (Brake) Clark.

Lorenzo C. Clark was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1839, a son of Watson D. and Elizabeth (Trace) Clark, both of whom were born in the state of Pennsylvania, the former of English descent, the latter of German ancestry, they living in Monroe county, Michigan, from 1849 to 1876, with the exception of four years in Wayne county, New York. Lorenzo C. Clark, on February 4, 1861, enlisted in Company E, Sixth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, serving in the Civil War until August 20, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. During the year 1876 Mr. Clark moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, and settled on a farm in section 5, of North Star township, later in life moving to North Star, where he died in 1912. Mrs. Clark, the widow of Lorenzo Clark, now lives at North Star. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Clark was Elizabeth N. Brake, a daughter of David and Marietta (Baker) Brake.

Mr. and Mrs. Swarthout and their son, Kenneth Carleton, who was born on March 15, 1903, are active members and supporters of the Congregational church, at Crystal, and are among the respected and appreciated workers of this congregation. Charles Swarthout, since the year 1868, has been a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is also a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, in Montcalm county.

As a citizen, Mr. Swarthout served as a supervisor of Crystal township for five years. During the time of his active life on the farm and since retiring to the more quiet walks of life he has given freely of his influence and support for the promotion of the various helpful movements of the community.

JOHN B. STRAIT.

John B. Strait, well-known and highly-respected retired farmer, living at Crystal, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Defiance county, Ohio, June 17, 1844, a son of Reuben and Mary (Resler) Strait, the former born in Manchester, Vermont, April 5, 1810, a son of George Strait and wife; the latter born in Logansport, Pennsylvania, from where she moved with her parents to Defiance county, Ohio, at which place she was married.

Reuben Strait was a man of various pursuits, having been a canal boatman, managed a hotel, conducted a grocery and operated a veneer-mill. The elder Strait spent the greater part of his mature life at Defiance, Ohio, where he died in 1857, at the age of forty-seven, survived by his wife and two children, Roxey and John B., the latter being thirteen years of age

at the time of the death of his father. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Strait was married, secondly, in October, 1864, to Grafton Reed, they, after their marriage moving to Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where they spent their last days.

John B. Strait, while yet quite young, enlisted for service in the Civil War, with Company H, Thirty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but on account of physical disability was mustered out of the service a year afterward. During the month of February, 1863, Mr. Strait again enlisted for service, this time with Company D, Tenth Ohio Cavalry, a command with which he served as a part of the army of General Sherman on his march to the sea. At Bailey's Cross Roads, North Carolina, in February, 1865, John B. Strait was captured as a prisoner of war and taken to Salisbury prison, in North Carolina, later being moved to Danville, and from there to Libby prison. He was suffering from a gun-shot through the body and arm, both wounds the result of the same bullet. With the characteristic neglect of the notorious Libby prison, John B. Strait received no medical attention, being compelled to do with dressing of his wounds which had been applied by a farmer's wife at her home, the sole attention which Mr. Strait received in this prison having been two doses of medicine. The prison authorities said that he would be dead before morning, but John B. Strait rallied from his wounds and suffered the hardships and privations of the rebel prison until April 3, 1865, when he was transferred to a field hospital of the Union army. In June, of the same year, he rejoined his regiment, and served for the remainder of the war, being discharged on July 6, 1865, at Cleveland, Ohio.

Following his discharge from military service, John B. Strait came to Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and became a farmer on forty acres of land, living at this place until 1871, when, with his family, Mr. Strait moved to Blackhawk county, Iowa, and farmed there for nine years. He then returned to Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and with the proceeds from the sale of his Iowa land, purchased a farm located in the northern part of Crystal township, this county, where his son, William, now lives. On his farm in Crystal township, John B. Strait lived until 1902, when he sold his land to his son, William, and moved to Crystal, where he now lives a retired life.

On March 4, 1866, John B. Strait was married to Catherine Johnson, who was born in Fulton county, Ohio, a daughter of John B. and Elizabeth (Freeze) Johnson, natives of Virginia and of Ohio, respectively. Mr. and

Mrs. Johnson lived in Fulton county, Ohio, until October, 1864, when they moved to Ferris township, Montcalm county, where John B. Johnson engaged in farming and in the operation of a blacksmith shop for the remainder of his days. To the marriage of John B. and Catherine Strait have been born eight children: George, who raises peaches and berries on forty acres of land along the southeast shore of Crystal lake; Victoria, who died in 1910, she having been the wife of Charles Groom; Brittomart, who died at the age of eight years; William, a farmer of Crystal township; Mary, who died in 1893, the wife of Oren Myers; Milo, a farmer living two miles south of Ferris Center, in Ferris township, this county; Elizabeth, the wife of Allen Page, of Crystal, and John B., who lives at Rosebush, Isabella county, Michigan.

John B. Strait, during the time that the Grand Army of the Republic post existed at Crystal, was an active member, having taken an important part in the work and in the efforts of this organization. Mr. Strait and his family are among the honored and esteemed people of this community, they having a host of friends and admirers.

RAYBURN B. SMITH, M. D.

Dr. Rayburn B. Smith, president of the State Bank of Crystal and the only practicing physician and surgeon at Crystal, this county, is a native of the "Sunflower" state, having been born in a sod dugout near the town of Stockton, on the plains of Brooks county, Kansas, on July 18, 1881, son of Benjamin F. and Lillian J. (Adams) Smith, who at that time were "proving up" a claim on the prairie, during which time, for three years, they lived in a sod shanty, experiencing all the discomforts and hardships of the pioneers.

Benjamin Franklin Smith was born at Mesopotamia, Trumbull county, Ohio, February 10, 1848, son of Benjamin and Hannah (Byers) Smith, who were born and reared and married in York county, Pennsylvania, and who, after their marriage, moved to Trumbull county, Ohio, where they established a home and where they spent the remainder of their lives. B. F. Smith grew up on the paternal farm in Ohio and followed farming until he was twenty-two years of age, after which, for a little more than six years, he was engaged in the hotel business at Garrettsville, Ohio. In the meantime he had married and in the summer of 1879 went to Kansas

with his bride and entered a claim to a tract of government land in Brooks county, that state, and while "proving up" the same lived in a sod dugout. In the fall of 1881 they returned to Ohio and for a few years Mr. Smith was engaged in farming in the neighborhood of his old home at Mesopotamia. In March, 1890, he came to Montcalm county and located at Crystal, where for about three years he was engaged in running a summer resort and boat business on Crystal lake. In 1893 he built the Lakeside House and there has conducted a summer hotel ever since. His hotel accommodates more than eighty guests and does a fine business during the summers. Mr. Smith has taken a warm interest in general affairs hereabout since coming to this county and for several years served on the school board.

On June 23, 1879, Benjamin F. Smith was united in marriage to Lillian J. Adams, who was born in Nelson, Ohio, daughter of Oliver J. and Nancy (Peterman) Adams, the former a native of that state and the latter of Wisconsin, and to this union six children have been born, of whom two died in infancy, the others being as follow: Jessie, who was born in Brooks county, Kansas, married G. V. Wright, of Alma, this state, and has three children, Esther Lillian, Rollo and Norman S.; Ethel, born at Mesopotamia, Ohio, widow of Martin S. Lewis, lives at Crystal and has one son, Phil C.; Ida, also born at Mesopotamia, who is the wife of Charles S. Dougherty and lives at Warren, Ohio, and Dr. Rayburn B., the immediate subject of this sketch.

Rayburn B. Smith was but six weeks of age when his parents left Kansas, where he was born, and returned to Ohio. The first eight years of his life were spent on the farm in Trumbull county and he then came with his parents to this county, where he grew to manhood and where he has lived ever since. Upon completing the course at that time prescribed in the Crystal high school he taught school for a year, at the end of which time he entered Saginaw Valley Medical College, from which excellent institution he was graduated on May 4, 1903, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession in Crystal, where he ever since has been located, with the exception of the time he spent in Chicago taking a post-graduate course in the Northern Illinois College of Ophthalmogy and Otology. He has been health officer for Crystal township for the past eight or ten years and is a member of the Montcalm County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest. Doctor Smith also has taken an active interest in general affairs hereabout and when the State Bank of Crystal was organized he was

ected president of that institution, a position which he has ever since held. Doctor Smith is a member of the Masonic order and takes a prominent part in the activities of the local lodge of that order.

On September 17, 1907, Dr. Rayburn B. Smith was united in marriage to Inez Reynolds, who was born at Mesopotamia, Trumbull county, Ohio, daughter of Job and Altha (Lewis) Reynolds, both natives of that county, and to this union two children have been born, Reynolds C. and Marian J.

Job Reynolds was born on September 6, 1837, son of Job and Betsey (Arnold) Reynolds, who were married in Connecticut and immigrated to Ohio, settling in Trumbull county at an early day in the settlement of that section and there established a home in the woods, eventually developing a fine farm of about three hundred acres, and there the junior Job Reynolds was born and grew to manhood. He married Altha Lewis, daughter of Silas and Silana (Hathaway) Lewis, natives of Massachusetts and pioneers of Trumbull county, Ohio. Job Reynolds, Jr., lived on the farm on which he was born until in September, 1887, at which time he moved to the village of Mesopotamia, where he ever since lived and for many years has been engaged in the live-stock business. He is a veteran of the Civil War, having served for one year and six months from the time of his enlistment, on September 1, 1861, in the Second Ohio Cavalry, engaged in the campaign in Missouri, Arkansas and the South, and was discharged on a physician's certificate of disability.

WARREN G. GRISWOLD.

Warren G. Griswold, a veteran of the Civil War and a prosperous retired farmer, now living in comfort at his pleasant home in the village of Crystal, this county, is a native-born son of Michigan, having been born at Novi, in Oakland county, this state, February 22, 1849, son of Warren B. and Phoebe Ann (Holt) Griswold, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York state, who, in the early fifties, moved from Oakland county to Ionia county, where Warren B. Griswold traded a yoke of cattle for twenty acres of land and proceeded to make a new home in the forest wilderness, and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1874. His wife died in 1861, their son, Warren G., the subject of this sketch, then being twelve years of age.

In October, 1864, he then being fifteen years of age, Warren G. Griswold enlisted in Company C, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry,

and saw service in Tennessee and Texas, being mustered out at San Antonio, Texas, on February 10, 1866. Upon the completion of his military experience Mr. Griswold returned home and resumed his place on his father's farm. The next spring he married and for a number of years was engaged as a timberman and general farmer. In 1879 he began farming for himself, having bought a small place two miles south and one mile west of the village of Crystal, in this county. He did well and gradually added to his holdings there until at the time of his retirement from the farm in February, 1915, he was the owner of one hundred and twenty acres, more than one hundred of which had been cleared and was under cultivation. He sold the place to his son, Lyman, and bought a home in the village of Crystal, where he and his wife are now living in comfortable retirement. Mr. Griswold is an earnest Republican and for years has given thoughtful attention to civic affairs. He has served the public in the capacity of drain commissioner and was also highway commissioner for Crystal township for some years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes an active interest in the affairs of those organizations.

On March 21, 1867, Warren G. Griswold was united in marriage to Elvira Rockwell, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1850, daughter of Charles and Almida (Millard) Rockwell, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state, who came to this county in October, 1857, and bought a farm southwest of Crystal, where Mr. and Mrs. Griswold for years made their home and where their son is now living. When the Rockwells settled here there was only a trail leading through the deep timber and Mrs. Griswold has seen the development of Crystal township from the very beginning of the establishment of a social order thereabout, she being acknowledged to be the only person now living for miles about who has been a resident of that section as long as she. March 21, 1917, will be the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage date of Mr. and Mrs. Griswold. To them ten children have been born and they have thirty-two grandchildren and one great-grandchild, Donna, daughter of Truman Rolfe. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Griswold five are still living, five having died when quite young, three, Erwin, Clinton and Raymond, having died within a week of each other of a combination of scarlet fever and diphtheria, the youngest less than a year old and the eldest not quite five years of age; Franklin Charles, their first-born child, died at the age of two years and six months, and Wesley, the

third in order of birth, a few days before his fifth birthday, in February, 1880. The living children, in the order of their birth, are as follow: Estella, widow of Watson Rolfe, is living at Crystal and has eight children, Harley L., Ernest W., Leo, Truman, Leslie, Hazel, Lucille and Dale; Bertha, wife of Daniel Kidder, lives near the town of Muir, in Ionia county, and has eight children, Clifford, Nettie, Grace, Claire, Donald, Raymond, Marion and Frank; Ina, wife of Perry Blount, living two and one-half miles southwest of Crystal, has five children, Alta, Ford, Floyd, Dorothy and Joyce Elaine; Lyman, who bought the old home farm, where he now makes his home, married Ina Rickard and has five children, Beatrice, Lyle, Warren, Cecil and Beulah, living, and two dead, and Eli, living near Muir, in Ionia county, who married Edith Dudhope and has six children, Elsie, Elton, Elbert, Eula, Elmer and Eunice.

HUBERT S. PRESTON.

Hubert S. Preston, a well-known building contractor and photographer, of Crystal, this county, who for more than fifteen years has served the people of Crystal township in the important public capacity of justice of the peace, is a native-born son of Michigan, having been born at Battle Creek, this state, April 23, 1857, son of James M. and Lucy E. (Canfield) Preston, the former of whom died in that city in 1902, at the age of seventy-eight, and the latter now is living at St. Johns, this state, in her eighty-third year.

James M. Preston was born in the state of New York in 1824, son of Ephraim Preston and wife, who came to Michigan when he was three years old and settled at Battle Creek, which at that time was a small settlement containing but four stores and a mere cluster of unpretentious houses. There James M. Preston grew to manhood and married Lucy E. Canfield, who was born in Vermont and whose mother died when she was a baby, after which her father came to this state and she grew to womanhood on a farm between Quincy and Coldwater, in Branch county. Some years after their marriage, James M. Preston and wife moved to Kalamazoo county, this state, where they settled on a farm in Climax township and there they lived for many years, long past the days of their middle age retiring from the farm and returning to Battle Creek, where Mr. Preston died in 1902. His widow married Wells Sheldon and is now living at St. Johns, this state.

Hubert S. Preston was but three years of age when his parents moved from Battle Creek to Kalamazoo county, and in the latter place of residence he grew to manhood, there learning the carpenter trade and at the same time becoming a skilled photographer. About 1877 he went to Barry county, this state, where, near the town of Woodland, he began working as a carpenter. While there he married Ella E. Esterbrook, who died not long afterward, without issue. Later, Mr. Preston moved to the town of Sebawa, in Ionia county, this state, where, February 5, 1879, he married, secondly, Clotilda DeCamp, who was born in Noble county, Indiana, August 5, 1857, daughter of Simeon and Anna (Squires) DeCamp, both of whom were born near the town of Erie, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, the former on April 22, 1824, and the latter, August 7, 1824, who, in their early childhood, were taken to Ohio, their respective families moving to that state at that time, and in 1846 they were married, both the DeCamp and the Squires families at that time living in the neighborhood of Columbus, the state capital. About 1854 they moved to Noble county, Indiana, and thence, in the fall of 1866, to this state, settling in the neighborhood of Sebawa, in Ionia county, where Mr. DeCamp bought a farm and where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on July 20, 1903, at the age of seventy-nine, and hers, November 13, 1911, at the age of eighty-seven.

Following his second marriage, Mr. Preston remained at Sebawa about three years, at the end of which time he returned to his old home in Kalamazoo county, where he made his home for eight years, five years of which time he spent carpentering and one year as a photographer. It was during that period that he spent nine months in North Dakota, but not finding things there to his liking returned to Kalamazoo county and devoted some time to finishing his study of the art of photography. In the spring of 1888 Mr. Preston came to this county and located at Crystal, where he ever since has made his home. He had a car built for use as a movable photograph gallery and for four years was engaged in operating the same in and about Crystal. He then sold the car, expecting to build a more commodious one, but just at that time was asked to build a house for a friend and he thus, incidentally, was led to resume his former vocation of carpenter. Demands for his services in this connection continued to be made and for fifteen years he was continuously engaged in building, during which time he constructed most of the better class of houses erected in Crystal in that period. In the meantime, in the spring of 1900, Mr. Preston was

elected justice of the peace of Crystal township and so admirably has he filled the office that he has been continuously re-elected at each recurring election since and is still serving in that important capacity, his excellent judgment and the thoughtful attention he gives to the cases which arise within his jurisdiction rendering him well qualified for the place of local magistrate. In February, 1911, Squire Preston built a photograph gallery next door to his home and since then has been devoting his attention almost exclusively to the art of photography, although he still does some carpentering.

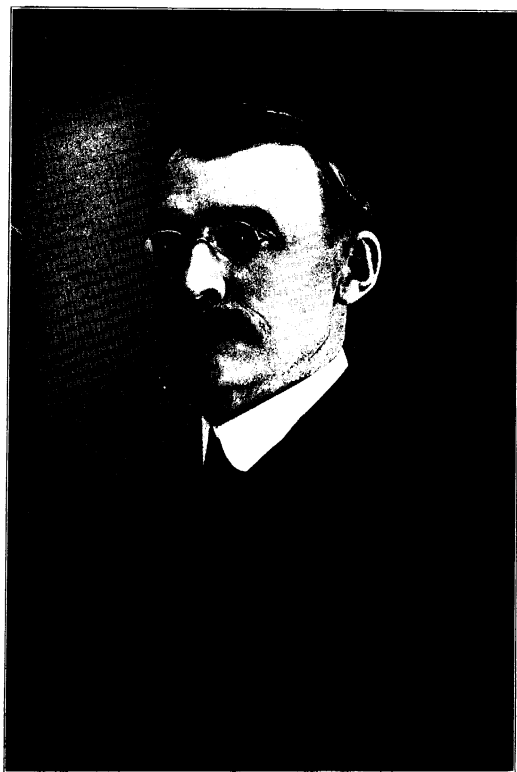
To Hubert S. and Clotilda (DeCamp) Preston two sons have been born: Arthur J., born at Sebawa in 1880, and Roy C., at Crystal in 1889, both of whom are ministers of the Gospel. The Rev. Arthur J. Preston, who is a minister of the Methodist church, married Nellie Hinkston and is now living at Bear Lake, in Manistee county, this state. The Rev. Roy C. Preston, who is a minister of the Baptist church, now stationed at Allen, in Hillsdale county, this state, is also a teacher in the public schools and received his training in the normal school at Ypsilanti and the college at Hillsdale. He married Maggie Ellenthorp and has two children, Catherine Evelyn and Irene Bessie.

Squire Preston is a Republican and for years has given close attention to local political affairs. He is a Mason and was senior deacon of the local lodge for about twelve years, also having served as junior warden and as senior warden. Mrs. Preston is a member of the Methodist church and, together with her husband, ever has been active in good works.

ENSIGN B. STEBBINS.

Ensign B. Stebbins, business man, financier, man of affairs and prominent citizen, of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Muskegon, Michigan, on October 24, 1865, the son of Chester H. and Emeline (Pike) Stebbins, both of whom were born in Ionia county, Michigan.

Chester H. Stebbins, following his marriage in Ionia county, lived at Muskegon for some time and then moved to the town of Ionia, a place which was his home until some time later, when he went to Lake View, Montcalm county, where he has since been engaged in the milling business and in general agricultural pursuits. As a resident of Lake View, Chester



ENSIGN B. STEBBINS.

11. Stebbins has taken an important part in public and official affairs, having served as village president, as township supervisor and as the occupant of other offices of trust and honor.

Ensign B. Stebbins was educated in the schools of Lake View, Montcalm county, and after the completion of his educational efforts, he established a small factory for the manufacture of novelties, a place which, under the able management of Mr. Stebbins, soon became a factory for the making of furniture. After some years as a manufacturer, at Lake View, Ensign B. Stebbins, in 1905, moved to Sturgis, Michigan, where he erected a modern factory building for the conduct of his business as a furniture manufacturer. Mr. Stebbins engaging successfully in this business at that place for six years, when he sold out and went to Grand Rapids, where he lived for some time. Ensign B. Stebbins came to Carson City, and organized the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, a financial institution of which Mr. Stebbins has been cashier since its organization, in 1915.

In 1885, at Lake View, Ensign B. Stebbins was married to Mattie Fuller, who was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, the daughter of Lewis and Phoebe (Alley) Fuller, who settled in Lake View about 1880, where Lewis Fuller operated a planing-mill and followed his occupation as a contractor and builder, until shortly before his death, when he went to Birmingham, Alabama, where he died in 1907. Phoebe, the wife of Lewis Fuller, died at Lake View, about the year 1900. To the marriage of Ensign B. and Mattie Stebbins have been born three daughters, Aileen, Hazel and Mildred, all of whom live at home; Hazel was educated at Olivet College.

Ensign B. Stebbins is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, at Carson City, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Stebbins is one of the esteemed and honored citizens of Carson City and of Montcalm county, his judgment and counsel on matters of business and finance being eagerly sought, and being a man of progressive ways, unselfish life and devotion to the interests of the community, he has won for himself a host of friends and admirers among his fellow citizens and associates.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank, of Carson City, which is an evidence of the ability and efforts of Ensign B. Stebbins, was organized on January 2, 1915, as a state bank, with an authorized capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. After the organization of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, the business of the institution was conducted in temporary quarters, until September 18, 1915, when they moved into their

present especially constructed and modernly furnished building, located on one of the choice sites of Carson City.

The building is of brick, is furnished with quartered oak furniture, well lighted and ventilated, heated by steam, and is so arranged that the convenience of the building makes it a pleasure for the conduct of business. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank, of Carson City, is supplied with safety deposit facilities, with private booths for the use of depositors, is equipped with ladies' rest room, lounges and desks for correspondence and the care of business, and in this modern bank building is a large room equipped with tables, chairs and all furnishings and supplies necessary for the conduct of business, of the holding of meetings or social gatherings.

The affairs of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, of Carson City, are cared for by the following officers: William E. Adams, president; George Walt, vice-president; Ensign B. Stebbins, cashier, and Paul V. Bretz, assistant cashier. The stock of this banking house is owned by about twenty local stockholders, men well known as farmers and merchants of Carson City and Montcalm county.

OTIS A. SANFORD.

Otis A. Sanford, well-known manufacturer and owner of the garage at Crystal, this county, and generally recognized as the chief "booster" of that pleasant village, though too modest personally to admit that local distinction, is a native-born son of Michigan, having been born in York township, Washtenaw county, this state, November 20, 1873, son of A. W. and Emma (Tuttle) Sanford. He grew up on the paternal farm in Washtenaw county, supplementing his district-school schooling by a course in the high school at Milan, after which, at the age of eighteen, he began work for himself in the capacity of fireman for a cider factory. After a few months of such service he went to Battle Creek, where for a year he was engaged as a fireman in the city waterworks of Battle Creek, after which he went to Jackson, where for three years he was in the employ of the Collins Manufacturing Company as an all-around mechanic, having charge of the electrical equipment of the plant, running a machine and doing such other things as his hand found to do, in the meantime developing a real genius for the intricacies of mechanics.

Mr. Sanford then was attracted by the possibilities presented in the

fruit belt of California and went to that state, where for two years he was engaged as a foreman on a fifty-acre fruit farm near the town of Newcastle, in Placer county, but not finding things there wholly to his liking returned to Jackson, re-entering the employ of the Collins Manufacturing Company and was thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he bought a carriage and repair shop on Main street in that city, which he operated quite successfully for a year. He then sold his shop to advantage and for a year thereafter was connected with the work of creating beautiful Cooley park, now the Michigan state Odd Fellow home, after which he came to this county, in 1899, locating in Crystal, where he started a factory for manufacturing lath and potato crates. He presently added an equipment of planing-mill machinery to his plant, to which he later added a set of buhrs for grinding feed. In 1902 he established the electric-light plant at Crystal and the next year put in a full set of rollers for a flour-mill, at the same time dropping the manufacture of lath and potato crates. He operated the flour-mill until 1911, in which year he established a general garage and automobile-repair shop, which he ever since has been very successfully operating. In 1913 Mr. Sanford added to the equipment of his electric-light plant a powerful storage battery, by the use of which he is enabled to give Crystal a full twenty-four-hour light service with only twelve hours of power. In the meantime he built a handsome residence in Crystal and is now quite comfortably situated there. He was one of the chief organizers of the Crystal Telephone Company and was manager of the telephone system there until July 1, 1915, and in other ways has contributed much to the general advancement of the best interests of that thriving village. Mr. Sanford is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Gleaners, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest.

In 1897 Otis A. Sanford was united in marriage to Georgiana Mesler, who was born in Jackson county, Michigan, daughter of Charles and Amelia (Dramer) Mesler, and who was quite a small girl when her parents moved into the city of Jackson, where they now reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Sanford two children have been born, Leon T. and Milo D.

As an instance of the manner in which Mr. Sanford is regarded by his neighbors in Crystal, the following extract from a recent article in a local newspaper is presented: "Mr. Sanford is a 'booster' for the upbuilding of Crystal and vicinity and it was mainly through his efforts that many of the improvements of the village were brought to a successful culmination. Mr. Sanford is too modest to take any credit for the work, and when asked who

it was that put through the many improvements he says, 'the boosters of Crystal.' But Mr. Sanford has many friends in Crystal who are willing to give him the credit deserved. The Crystal lighting plant is not surpassed in Michigan, and probably nowhere else. It is run by steam till ten o'clock at night and from then until the steam power starts in the morning the current is furnished by storage batteries, which also are used all day Sundays. At his garage all repairs can be made, vulcanizing done and magnetos recharged and a full stock of accessories and tires is carried."

ELI A. ELDRIDGE.

Eli A. Eldridge, well-known business man, engaged in the occupation of a house-mover, of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Salem township, Washtenaw county, Michigan, May 26, 1850, the son of James and Harriett (Higgins) Eldridge, natives of Kent, England.

James Eldridge and his wife came to America in 1858, and after a short time at Detroit, they came to a point near the present town of Northville, where they lived for three years and then moved to Mecosta county, later, in 1863, moving to Crystal township, Montcalm county, where James Eldridge purchased one hundred and sixty acres of uncleared and unimproved land. This land the elder Eldridge prepared for cultivation and lived the life of pioneers, and as a farmer for the remainder of his life, with the exception of three years as a soldier in the Civil War. James Eldridge was a drainage commissioner of his township for two terms and he was an active member and local preacher of the Baptist church in Montcalm county. James Eldridge died on May 26, 1910; his wife died in December, 1909. James and Harriett Eldridge were the parents of five children: W. E., Addie, Bert, Eli A., and Nettie May, who is deceased.

Eli A. Eldridge spent his youthful days on the home place, was educated in the public schools of his native township, and then he engaged in general work, for about two years, after which he purchased a stump-pulling outfit and followed this line of work for about ten years, during this time Mr. Eldridge having taken out the stumps for the Grand Trunk railway branch in Montcalm county. After clearing forty acres of land which he purchased in Montcalm county, Mr. Eldridge disposed of his stump-pulling outfit and then, in 1896, bought a house-moving outfit and engaged in the house-moving business throughout his locality for two years and then moved to Car-

son City, where he now lives and cares for an extensive business in his line of activity. Mr. Eldridge is the owner of a choice home property in Carson City, and is also the owner of three other houses and lots in his home town.

During the year 1886, Eli A. Eldridge was married to Ida May Binkley, a daughter of Jacob and Harriett Binkley. To the marriage of Eli A. and Ida May Eldridge were born three children, Eddie, Leon and Harry, all of whom are deceased. Ida May, the wife of Eli A. Eldridge, died, and in 1903, Mr. Eldridge was married, secondly, to Mary Percy McVeigh, who was born at East Plains, Ionia county, Michigan, the daughter of B. W. and Mary H. (Vance) McVeigh, the former born in Orange county, the latter at Dundee, Yates county, New York.

Eli A. Eldridge and his wife are active workers of the Congregational church, at Carson City, and are people who are highly respected and esteemed for their part in life and activities of Carson City and Montcalm county.

EDGAR S. BROOKS.

Edgar S. Brooks, prominent merchant and leading citizen of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Goodrich village, Atlas township, Genesee county, Michigan, on January 28, 1861, the son of Lewis S. and Cordelia (Rothchild) Brooks, natives of New York state.

Lewis S. Brooks, who was the son of John Brooks and wife, was educated in New York state, lived there until a young man, when he was married and then, in 1850, moved to Genesee county, Michigan, where he followed his occupation as a shoemaker and where he conducted a shoe shop, at Goodrich, until the ninetieth year of his life.

After the completion of his education, in the schools of Goodrich, Edgar S. Brooks worked as a farm helper and as an employee of local stores until 1896, when he came to Carson City, and purchased a restaurant, a place which he conducted for about one and one-half years, and then, selling his restaurant business, Mr. Brooks bought the general store where he now is successfully and prosperously engaged in the sale of general merchandise. In addition to his general mercantile business, Edgar S. Brooks is a partner of the Carson City Auto Company, a company engaged in the sale of high-grade automobiles and supplies.

During the year 1882, Edgar S. Brooks was married to Emma Barron, who was born in Genesee county, the daughter of Bethuel and Alice (Kirk-

patrick) Barron, natives of New York state, who settled on a farm in Genesee county, about the year 1860, living on the farm for the remainder of their days. To the marriage of Edgar S. and Emma Brooks have been born three children: Roy E., who married Lena Steffey, of Grand Rapids, now a salesman for a Carson City business house, after having disposed of a photographic business which he conducted for about five years; Ray C., a partner with his father, who married Hazel Brice, of North Shade township, Gratiot county, and Ida F., who was graduated from the Carson City high school and now is pursuing a commercial course. Edgar S. Brooks is an interested supporter of the Methodist church of Carson City, a church of which Mrs. Brooks is a well-known member.

Edgar S. Brooks is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, of the Knights of the Maccabees, of the Fraternal Star and of the Mystic Workers. Mr. Brooks has taken an active part in the political affairs of Carson City, having served as village president for two years, for two years served as village treasurer and for two years was a leading and influential member of the Carson City village council.

ZACHARIAS D. RULE.

Zacharias D. Rule, one of the leading merchants of Crystal, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the town of Woodbury, that state, on November 19, 1860, son of Adam H. and Louise (Jacobs) Rule, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York state.

Adam H. Rule was a miller in Ohio. By his marriage with Louise Jacobs eight children were born, of whom six were sons who grew to manhood. The mother of these children died in Ohio and Mr. Rule later married, secondly, Cordelia Fagley, to which union two children were born. In 1880 he came to Michigan with his family and settled in the deep woods in North Shade township in Gratiot county, where he bought a small tract of land, cleared the same and made a farm of it and there he lived until well past middle age, when his wife died after which he retired from the farm and spent his latter days in the town of Middleton, where he died in 1909.

Z. D. Rule was but a lad when he came to Michigan with his father and he grew up on the farm in Gratiot county. He attended Ferris Institute

two terms after the completion of his course in the common schools and for several years taught school and for four years was connected with the work of the state institution at Traverse City, after which, for a short time, he was engaged as a carpenter. In July, 1898, Mr. Rule enlisted in Company H, Thirty-fifth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, for service during the Spanish-American War, which regiment was encamped at Camp Meade, in Pennsylvania, until winter, afterward being encamped at Augusta, Georgia, where it spent the winter and was mustered out in the spring of 1899. In July of the latter year Z. D. Rule enlisted in Company C, Thirtieth Regiment, United States Volunteers, for service in the Philippines and went out as a sergeant, remaining in that service until February, 1901, during which time he also served for some time as a member of the metropolitan police force in the islands, a force of men picked from the soldiers for special detail in Manila. Upon his return home at the close of his military service, Mr. Rule engaged in building contracting and was thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he entered into partnership with a merchant at Butternut, this county, in the general merchandise way, which partnership, however, continued but ten days, for during that time he recognized an opportunity to do better in the neighboring village of Crystal and, selling his interest in the Butternut store to his partner, went to Crystal, bought a general store and has ever since been engaged in business there, during which time he has built up an extensive trade and is regarded as one of the leading merchants of the town. He also is financially interested in the cheese factory there and is otherwise interested in the general affairs of the community. Mr. Rule also has given proper attention to the civic affairs of that locality and for some time served as clerk of Crystal township.

In 1903 Zacharias D. Rule was united in marriage to Gertrude Hardman, who was born in Richland county, Ohio, daughter of Francis M. and Dora A. (Goodwin) Hardman, who settled in North Shade township, Gratiot county, this state, in 1886. Mr. Hardman was a carpenter in Ohio, but upon coming to this state bought a timber tract, cleared the same and there made a home, in which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1912. His widow is now living at Middleton. Their daughter, Gertrude, grew to womanhood on the home farm in North Shade township, attended high school at Carson City and the normal school at Mt. Pleasant and had been teaching school for about ten years at the time of her marriage to Mr. Rule. Mrs. Gertrude (Hardman) Rule died on December 21,

1915. She was a faithful and devout member of the Christian church and was greatly mourned by all who knew her.

Mr. Rule is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the encampment of that order and takes a warm interest in both these branches of Oddfellowship.

ROBERT F. EMERSON.

One who has stood as a distinguished type of the state's productive workers is Robert F. Emerson, who has deeply impressed his influence upon the industrial life of the county in which he lives. He has been actively and prominently identified with business interests in Carson City for over twenty consecutive years and holds precedence in the community as one whose life has been marked by useful accomplishments. Robert F. Emerson is a native of Hastings county, Ontario, Canada, where he was born on the 24th of September, 1857. He is the son of Robert and Margaret (Robinson) Emerson, both of whom were natives of Ireland. His father, who was born in County Fermanagh, was educated in his native land and upon arriving in this country settled in Canada, where he met his future wife, who had come to America in her childhood.

Robert F. Emerson was trained to the sturdy discipline of the farm and lived in Canada until 1882, when he came to Carson City and took up his residence on a farm one and one-half miles southwest of the place just mentioned. He began farming in this section of the state on forty acres of land, and continued to reside on the farm until the following spring, when he left for the Dakotas. In the West he took up three claims of land, each claim consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He remained in the West seven years. After selling out his farm interests in that locality, he returned to Carson City and has been occupied with a dray business here ever since. Mr. Emerson has achieved success in business through his own endeavors. He is a man of firm character who has lived up to the highest ideals of life in every field of activity in which he has been engaged and as a result is held in the highest regard by the citizens of the community in which he labors.

The marriage of Robert Emerson to Rose Ann McGee was solemnized in Canada. Mrs. Emerson, who is the daughter of Thomas McGee, was reared in Canada, on a farm near Sterling, Ontario. By her marriage to

Mr. Emerson she has become the mother of the following children: Margie, who married Jay Gibbs, of Edmore, and who has one son, Robert; Jay R., who resides in Detroit and who married Georgia Fritz; and Francis May, who is at home with her parents. It might be added that Jay Emerson is at the present time purchasing agent for the King Motor Car Company, of Detroit, and for a number of years was with the Oakland Company, serving in the same capacity. Before taking up automobile work as a permanent occupation, Jay Emerson was in the offices of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company. At the age of sixteen he was graduated from the Carson City high school and upon completing the course attended the Ferris Institute for eighteen months. Margie is also a graduate of the Carson City high school and of Ferris Institute and before her marriage taught in the public schools, three terms of which were spent in Carson City. Frances May is at the present time attending school in Carson City. Mr. Emerson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was treasurer several years. He and his wife are members of the Rebekahs and are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILL LYMAN WRIGHT.

Few men of Carson City, or of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, Michigan, have taken a more important or useful part in the affairs of their community, than has Will Lyman Wright, teacher, educator, business man, public spirited citizen and public office-holder, who was born on November 29, 1868, near Carson City, the son of B. Frank and Rhoda (Bush) Wright, both of whom were born and married in Machias, Cattaraugus county, New York.

B. Frank Wright and wife came to Gratiot county, Michigan, in 1867, and located about two miles south of Carson City, in the western part of the county, where they remained about one year, then located on sixty acres of wild land just west of Carson City, where he cut timber and built a log house, in which the elder Wright and his family lived until January, 1881, when B. Frank Wright was killed in the woods near Greenville. After the death of her husband, Rhoda, the widow of B. Frank Wright, in 1883, purchased a property in Carson City, where she lived until 1896, and then went to Morrice, and lived with her son, Will, of this sketch, until later when they went to Bancroft, where Rhoda Wright died, on February 19,

1902. B. Frank and Rhoda Wright were the parents of seven children: Izora and Horton, who are deceased; Libbie, Walter F., Maggie, Will L. and Fred A., who survive.

Will Lyman Wright received his early education in the public schools of Carson City, and then, when fourteen years of age, having moved with his mother to Carson City, Will, together with his brother, continued as students in the Carson City high school, they graduating from this school with the class of 1888, after having made their expenses by the selling of newspapers and by doing janitor work. Late in the year 1887, Will Lyman Wright became a school teacher, teaching the school at Vickeryville, for four months, after which he returned to his high school classes, and graduated as the president of his class. Following the completion of his high school education, Mr. Wright was a teacher in the brick school west of Carson City for three years, and in January, 1891, he entered the Ypsilanti Normal College, graduating in the year 1893, having completed his work in little more than half the time consumed by the other students of his class. Will Lyman Wright returned to Carson City and became principal of the town school for two years, during this time having purchased one hundred and sixty acres of timberland in Wexford county, a place which he, together with his brother, Horton, cleared by the use of a portable saw-mill, which they bought and operated, until the panic of 1893 caused them considerable loss, as a result of which they discontinued their business in lumber.

Late in the year 1896, Will Lyman Wright was elected as superintendent of the schools of Morrice, Michigan, an office which Mr. Wright filled in a most efficient manner for four years, after which he moved to the town of Bancroft and there purchased a printing plant in 1900, and was editor of the *Bancroft Commercial* for eleven years. While a resident of Bancroft, Will Lyman Wright served as township clerk for nine years and as president of the school board for four years, also during his activities at Bancroft having been the organizer of the local Cemetery Association, having for its object the improvement of the town cemetery. Will Lyman Wright served as financial director of the Cemetery Association of Bancroft, and as president and business manager of the Bancroft band for four years.

In October, 1911, Will Lyman Wright disposed of his business at Bancroft, Michigan, and returned to Carson City, Montcalm county, where he purchased a one-third interest in the hardware store of his brother, Fred A. Wright, the two brothers conducting the store until July 27, 1915, when

they sold the store to the firm of Bower & Geller. In March, 1913, Will Lyman Wright was appointed to fill the unexpired term as clerk of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, an office which Mr. Wright has since served, he having been elected to this office on two occasions.

During the year 1895, Will Lyman Wright was married to Neva M. Belden, who was born at Corunna, Michigan, where she lived until about fourteen years of age and then moved with her parents to Owosso, where her father was agent for the Standard Oil Company for thirty years. Following her education in the Owosso high school, from which school she graduated in 1889, and after the completion of her course of study at the Owosso Normal College, Neva M. Belden came, as a teacher, to Carson City, where she became acquainted with and was married to Mr. Wright. To the marriage of Will Lyman and Neva Wright have been born four children, Keitha D., Ireta Eileen, Arlon Bush and Nona Rhea.

Will Lyman Wright is a member of the Knight of the Maccabees and Knights of Pythias and is a man who is prominent in various associations and organizations having for their object the improvement of conditions and the advancement of the interests of Carson City and Montcalm county. The life of Mr. Wright has been a valuable asset to his community and he is one of the honored and esteemed men of the county.

WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER.

William J. Gallagher, well-known liveryman at Carson City, this county, who also is the owner of a fine farm in the neighboring county of Gratiot, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in North Shade township, Gratiot county, this state, on December 17, 1869, son of John and Elizabeth (Hartman) Gallagher, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of Germany.

John Gallagher, who was born in 1834, was but a lad when his parents emigrated from Ireland to this country. They settled in Ohio and in that state he grew to manhood and then came to Michigan, settling at Monroe, where he married Elizabeth Hartman, who was born in Hamburg, Germany, and who came to America with her parents when a young girl, the family settling first in New York state, later going to Ohio and thence to Michigan, settling in Monroe, where she was married. After their marriage John Gallagher and wife went back to Ohio, where they lived for a

time, after which they returned to Michigan and located in North Shade township, in Gratiot township, being among the early settlers in that section of the county. Shortly after locating there John Gallagher enlisted in a Michigan regiment for service during the Civil War and served until the close of the war, after which he returned to his farm in Gratiot county and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1875, at the age of forty-one. His widow, who continued to make her home on the farm, survived him many years, her death occurring in 1910, at the age of seventy-five years. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are still living save one, as follow: Frank, a farmer, living near New Haven, this state; Ella, who married Thomas Urie and lives on a farm in Deerfield township, Isabella county, this state; Rosetta, deceased, who was the wife of Alden Palmer; William J., the immediate subject of this sketch; John, of Clinton county, this state, and Japhet, who lives on the old home farm in North Shade township, in the adjoining county of Gratiot.

William J. Gallagher grew to manhood on the home farm and remained there until 1898, in which year he bought an eighty-acre farm and started farming on his own account. He later bought an adjoining tract of fifty acres and remained there, engaged quite profitably in general farming until March 16, 1912, at which time he retired from the farm and moved to Carson City, this county, where he bought a handsome home and where he ever since has made his home. In December, 1912, he bought a livery barn there and has since that time been engaged in conducting the same, at the same time keeping an eye on the proper operation of his farm. He has a good business in the livery line, manages the bus line and carries a full line of automobiles for hire, as well as an excellent equipment in the horse livery line, and is regarded as one of the most energetic and capable business men of that flourishing little city.

In 1895 William J. Gallagher was united in marriage to Bertha Worden, who was born in North Shade township, Gratiot county, this state, daughter of Hiram and Elizabeth Worden, natives of Canada, who came to Michigan more than forty years ago, making their home in North Shade township, in the neighboring county of Gratiot, where Hiram Worden died in 1903. His widow now makes her home in Carson City. To Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher four children have been born, Richard, William, Otis and Bernard. Mr. Gallagher is a member of the Masonic lodge and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm and active interest.

B. STEPHEN FRISBIE, M. D.

Dr. B. Stephen Frisbie, who for ten years during the time of his residence in this county was one of the best-known residents of the Crystal neighborhood, was a native of Ohio, having been born near the city of Cleveland in Cayuga county, that state, on September 12, 1832. He grew up there and in his youth was a schoolmate of James A. Garfield, the martyred President of the United States. He became a physician and successfully practiced his profession in Ohio until 1876, in which year he came to Michigan and settled in Montcalm county, buying a farm just south of the village of Crystal, the place now owned and occupied by his son, William Frisbie. There Doctor Frisbie engaged in farming, at the same time practicing his profession as long as his health would permit, and there he died in September, 1886, and was widely mourned, for during his residence in that section he had greatly endeared himself to all. He had aided very materially in the work of building the Congregational church at Crystal and was active in many other ways in promoting the best interests of that community.

Doctor Frisbie was twice married. To his union with Wealthy Ford five children were born, as follow: Arthur G., who for years was the head of the Frisbie Realty Company, at Cleveland, Ohio, and is now in the real-estate business at Fresno, California; Mrs. Millie A. Van Ettan, a graduate nurse, with a diploma from the Huron Street hospital at Cleveland, for more than twenty-five years active in her profession, now living with a son in Fresno, California; Jennie, who came to Montcalm county with her father, married Martin Binkley and died in 1901; Ella A., who for years was a stenographer, married Philip Henn and lived at Cleveland for eleven years, now a resident of Crystal, this county, and is attending Moody Institute at Chicago, and Dr. H. Gates Frisbie, a practicing physician at Canton, Ohio. The mother of these children died in Ohio about 1871 and Doctor Frisbie married, secondly, Eliza Smith, who was born at Paris, in Stark county, Ohio, and to this latter union seven children were born, namely: William B., who is now farming the old home place near Crystal, this county; Eva L., who for fourteen years was a school teacher, the wife of Prof. Emerson Leddick, formerly superintendent of schools at Montague, this state; Clyda B. and Fred S., twins, the former of whom is the wife of J. M. Tascelle, postmaster of Crystal, and the latter is a member of the Trebing Manufacturing Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, general building con-

tractors and manufacturers of all kinds of mill-work for building purposes; Mabel, who died in infancy; Dessie, who lives with her brother, William, and Minnie K., a well-known teacher, a graduate of Mt. Pleasant Normal College, who taught in the upper peninsula of Michigan and in the Island of Porto Rico, now teaching in Arizona, quite a traveler, who finds much delight in seeing the world. After Doctor Frisbie's death his widow continued to make her home at the old home place near Crystal, where she died on September 7, 1901.

JOSEPH M. LASCELLE.

Joseph M. Lascelle, postmaster at Crystal, this county, is a native of Ohio, having been born near the town of Lyons, in Fulton county, that state, on August 8, 1867, son of Giles B. and Maria (Ledgyard) Lascelle, both natives of New York state, and both of whom died in Ohio.

Joseph M. Lascelle was reared on a farm in Ohio and remained there until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he came to this county on a visit to his brother, Milton A. Lascelle and his two sisters, Mrs. Mary Herrick and Mrs. Libbie Yaner, who then resided in the pleasant village of Crystal. Mr. Lascelle had come here seeking the benefit of a change of climate, his health having become impaired, and he was so delighted with the beneficial change at once apparent in his condition that he decided to remain. After a time spent in resting and traveling a bit he worked as a farm hand and in the lumber camps, seeking the open, and presently was fully restored to his former vigor of body. Following his marriage in 1897 Mr. Lascelle bought a small farm one-half mile east of Crystal and there made his home for about two years. On January 1, 1900, he was appointed postmaster of Crystal and ever since has held that position. In April, 1900, he also became township clerk and held that position for twelve years, or until the ruling of the postoffice department forbade postmasters from holding other public offices. He also served for some years as school director and for the past sixteen years has been township librarian. From the time he became postmaster he has been acting as collector for the Ionia-Montcalm-Clinton Counties Mutual Fire Insurance Association and for the past three years also has been solicitor for that association.

On August 31, 1897, Joseph M. Lascelle was united in marriage to Clyda B. Frisbie, who was born in Crystal, daughter of the late Dr. B.

Stephen and Eliza (Smith) Frisbie, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch relating to Doctor Frisbie, presented elsewhere in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, Loy B., Doris I. and Isadora Helen. Mrs. Lascelle grew up at Crystal and supplemented her common-school course by a course at the normal school at Mt. Pleasant, after which she entered the ranks of Montcalm county's teaching force and had taught one term of school when she married Mr. Lascelle. She is a valuable assistant to her husband in his duties as postmaster.

Mr. and Mrs. Lascelle are members of the Congregational church and are active in all good works in and about Crystal, taking a warm interest in all movements designed to promote the general welfare thereabout. Mr. Lascelle is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of the Maccabees and in the affairs of both those organizations takes an earnest interest.

WILLIAM E. ADAMS, D. V. S.

Dr. William E. Adams, successful veterinary surgeon, prominent business man and financier, and a citizen who takes a leading place in the affairs of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Ontario, Canada, on May 13, 1863, the son of James and Elizabeth (Chaptman) Adams, natives of Ellon, Scotland, and of Ontario, Canada, respectively.

James Adams came to America when he was fourteen years of age, with his parents, and engaged in farming in Ontario, Canada, until about 1900, when he came to the United States and located in the state of Michigan, where he now lives.

William E. Adams received his early education in the common schools of his native community, after which he attended high school, graduating and then becoming a student of the Ontario Veterinary College, of Toronto, Canada, an institution from which William E. Adams, together with his brother, Charles H. Adams, was graduated in March, 1893.

Following the receipt of his degree as Doctor of Veterinary Surgery, Dr. William E. Adams came to the state of Michigan and located at Carson City, in Montcalm county, where he is now engaged in the practice of his profession, in partnership with his brother Dr. Charles H. Adams. The Doctors Adams have a lucrative practice and are among the leaders of their profession in the county and vicinity, both being appreciated and active members of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association.

In addition to his professional duties, Dr. William E. Adams has been active in the business life of Carson City, being the president, director and one of the organizers of the prosperous Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Carson City. Dr. William E. Adams has been one of the influential members of the Carson City village council and is now one of the school directors for the town of his residence and activity.

On June 7, 1893, Dr. William E. Adams was united in marriage to Harriett Clegg, a native of Toronto, Canada, and the daughter of Thomas and Anna (Webster) Clegg, the former born in Yorkshire, England, the latter in Ontario, Canada. To the marriage of William E. and Harriett Adams have been born three children: James P., Zelma Maude and Grette Mae, aged twenty, seventeen and fourteen, respectively. Dr. William E. Adams and his family are active members of the First Congregational church, of Carson City.

Dr. William E. Adams is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he has been active in the work of the Rebekahs and the Knights of the Maccabees. Dr. William E. Adams is one of the valued citizens of Carson City and of Montcalm county, his efforts for the good of the community and his public-spirited devotion to the progress of the various interests of the locality having won for him a host of friends and admiring fellow citizens.

WESLEY J. STEARNS.

Former County Treasurer Wesley J. Stearns has been a resident of Montcalm county since he was five years old, that having been the number of his years at the time his parents came to this county and settled at Sheridan. After having been interested in various forms of enterprise, Mr. Stearns settled down on his present fine farm in Evergreen township, this county, on rural route No. 5, out of Stanton, and is now very well circumstanced.

Wesley J. Stearns was born in Iowa, May 20, 1868, son of J. L. and Addie (Sawyer) Stearns, both natives of New Hampshire, and the former of whom is still living. J. L. Stearns was born in New Hampshire on March 19, 1831. In 1849 he joined the great throng of gold-seekers who flocked to California, but did not realize any great fortune to reward him for the strenuous experience and in 1851 he returned to New Hampshire, where he married Mary Sawyer and straightway started for Iowa with his

bride. After a few years' residence in the Hawkeye state, Mr. Stearns moved to Missouri and in 1873 came to this county, locating at Sheridan, where he followed his trade as a carpenter until long past middle age and was quite successful. His wife died in 1880. But two of their children now are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Ellen, wife of M. F. McNaughton, of Sheridan, this county.

Having been but five years of age when his parents came to this county, Wesley J. Stearns has spent practically all his life here and is one of the best-known men in the county. He received his education in the Sheridan schools and after leaving school worked for two summers in the employ of a washing-machine company, after which he went to the state of Washington. He presently returned to Sheridan, however, and there bought a meat market, which he operated for fourteen years, at the end of which time he bought the farm in Evergreen township on which he now lives and has lived there ever since. Mr. Stearns for years has been interested in the civic affairs of Montcalm county and has been active in politics. His first public office was that of treasurer of Evergreen township, in which office he served for two terms. He then was elected township supervisor and for five years gave proper attention to the duties of that office and two years later was elected treasurer of Montcalm county, on the Republican ticket, serving four years in that important office, his term of office expiring on January 1, 1915.

On April 10, 1890, Wesley J. Stearns was united in marriage to Anna Gallagher, who was born in Canada, but who had been a resident of Sheridan since she was twelve years of age, that having been her age when her parents located there, and to this union three children have been born: Vera, a graduate of the Sheridan high school and of the Stanton Normal School, who is now a teacher in the schools of this county; Morris, a graduate of the high school at Stanton, who is now cashier in the office of the auditor-general of the state of Michigan, at Lansing, and Ronald, a graduate of the Stanton high school, who is inspector of automobile tires in the Morgan Wright establishment at Detroit.

As suggested above, by the statement that he was elected to the office of county treasurer on the Republican ticket, Mr. Stearns is an ardent Republican and is now serving that party as chairman of the county central committee, previous to which service he had been for four years the secretary of the committee, and is thus known as one of the most active party

workers in this part of the state. Mr. Stearns is an active, energetic and enterprising citizen and is concerned in various enterprises hereabout, among which may be mentioned the Mutual Insurance Company, of Montcalm, Ionia and Clinton counties, of which he is the president. He is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and is past master of that lodge, as well as a member of Stanton Chapter No. 110, Royal Arch Masons, of which he is now king. Mr. Stearns has a wide acquaintance throughout this and neighboring counties and is held in high regard by all who know him.

FRED GUNTHER, Sr.

Fred Gunther, Sr., a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and the son of Matthias and Anna Marie (Link) Gunther, was born on March 7, 1848. He grew to manhood in his native country, where he learned blacksmithing and wagon-making, at which he worked until he came to America in 1869. After arriving in the United States he worked for some months at Oakland, in Livingston county, New York. He later went to Ionia, Michigan, where he worked for John Childs for five years in the carriage shop. On October 14, 1875, he came to Carson City and purchased a blacksmith shop, where he made carriages and wagons, in connection with his general work as a blacksmith. At this time the lumbering industry was at its height, the mills were busy and the woods alive with the lumbermen. During the day Mr. Gunther was busy with the heavier work and at night he made iron corks for the bottom of the men's shoes. He continued at this work until 1908, when his sight and general health became such that he was no longer able to continue at the work. He still retains the old shop, which he uses as a warehouse, in connection with his business as an implement dealer, in which he and his son are partners. He was for six years a member of the village council and has been active in the development of the town.

On July 6, 1873, Fred Gunther, Sr., was married to Sophia Davis, a native of Prussia, Germany, where she grew to womanhood and after which she emigrated to Ionia, where she lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Gunther are the parents of the following children: William F., Fred, Jr., Lottie, Alfred, Clara, Frank and Mabel. William F. married Nora Cooper, they live in Carson City and he travels for the Johnson Harvester Company. Lottie was first married to Clem Neldred, who died, after which

she married F. E. Boleski, of Alma. Fred, Jr., married Alta Perrin, a daughter of Tobias and Catherine (Reese) Perrin. They live at Carson City where he is engaged in business with his father. Alfred is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Carson City. Clara is at home. Frank, born on October 12, 1890, lives in the home town where he assists the father in his business. He married Grace Albough, on June 24, 1914. Mabel is at home.

Mr. Gunther has seen the town grow from a small trading point with few buildings and but little business. Today there are but few residents of this thriving town who were here when Mr. Gunther first came. In Mr. Gunther one finds the honest, hard-working and progressive citizen, who has made a success of life in a new country. His character is above reproach, his habits the best and he is held in high regard by all who know him.

PROF. EARL J. AELICK.

One of the best-known young educators in Montcalm county is Prof. Earl J. Aelick, superintendent of the schools at Sheridan, this county. He was born at Ionia, Michigan, on February 10, 1885, son of Andrew and Isadore (Galloway) Aelick, former well-known residents of Douglass township, this county, who now are living in Orange township, Ionia county.

Andrew Aelick was born in Canada, December 15, 1850. When ten years of age he was thrown largely on his own resources by reason of the accidental death of his father, who left a widow and a large family of children none too well provided for in the matter of world's goods. Beginning at this tender age to work for himself, Andrew Aelick worked for one man on a farm for seven years, the greater part of his earnings being given over to his widowed mother. In 1873 he came to the United States, and for some years followed the rugged life of a timber man, in time becoming head sawyer. In 1881 he married and continued his labors as a head sawyer until 1888, in which year he bought a farm in Douglass township, this county, on which he lived until in May, 1912, at which time he moved to Orange township, Ionia county, this state, where he is now living, enjoying fully the ample rewards of his life of industry. During his residence in Douglass township, Andrew Aelick was looked upon as one of the most progressive and substantial citizens of that section of the county and for some time served as township treasurer. He is now clerk of the town-

ship in which he lives in Ionia county. He and his wife are members of the Methodist church and he is a member of the Masonic lodge at Stanton and also of the Gleaners and Maccabees. Mrs. Aelick was born in Berlin township, Ionia county, this state, on November 10, 1863, daughter of James and Cordelia (Heater) Galloway, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. To the union of Andrew and Isadore (Galloway) Aelick there was but one child born, Earl J., the subject of this biographical sketch.

Earl J. Aelick was reared on the farm and received his elementary education in the district schools of Douglass township, this county, being the first pupil to complete the eighth grade in the county. Following his graduation from the grade school he entered the high school at McBride, from which he was graduated with the class of 1904, after which he entered the ranks of Montcalm county's progressive teachers and has ever since that time been thus engaged. In the meantime, Professor Aelick spent some time at Ferris Institute and at the Michigan State Normal at Mt. Pleasant, enlarging his equipment for his high calling, and has been very successful in his school work, earning a high reputation both as a teacher and as a superintendent of schools. For two years after entering the service of the board of education, he taught in district schools. For three years he then was in granular work in the Lake View school, after which he was called to take the principalship of the schools at Trufant; later was made principal of the Pierson schools, where he served for three years, and then was called to take charge of the schools at Sheridan and has been superintendent there for the past three years. During this time the non-resident attendance at the Sheridan school has doubled, and during his administration two of the largest classes in the history of the school have been graduated.

On November 24, 1904, Prof. Earl J. Aelick was united in marriage to Mary E. Cook, who was born on a farm in Grattan township, Kent county, this state, daughter of Rufus R. and Elizabeth (Brown) Cook, the former of whom was born on that same farm and the latter in Ionia county. Rufus R. Cook died on August 10, 1905. To Professor and Mrs. Aelick two children have been born, Marguerite L., born on August 27, 1909, and Rufus Cook, September 12, 1913. Professor and Mrs. Aelick are members of the Congregational church and take an active part in the social and cultural life of Sheridan, where they are held in high regard.

Professor Aelick is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in

political affairs, though not what may be called an active worker in politics, although his voice and influence ever are exerted in behalf of the cause of good government. He is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Progress Lodge No. 342, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at McBride, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of these two popular orders.

GEORGE RILEY GIBBS.

George Riley Gibbs, well-known business man and highly-respected citizen of Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Knox county, Ohio, on August 26, 1842, the son of Robert and Miriam (Ames) Gibbs, natives of Cannonsburg, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and of the state of Delaware, respectively.

Robert Gibbs was descended from Robert Gibbs, who was the first governor of South Carolina under the British crown, and who was one of three brothers who came to America in the early days of American history. The Gibbs family of England was one of prominence, a representative of this house having served his country as secretary of state, and another having been a cardinal of the Catholic church, while another was a noted sea captain. For many generations the Gibbs family was recognized by a crest and a coat-of-arms, in England, and this family has taken a place of note in the affairs of their country since the eleventh century.

Robert Gibbs, father of the subject of this sketch, was the son of Robert Gibbs, who moved from South Carolina, where he was the owner of a large tract of land, having been a prosperous planter of that state. Robert Gibbs, Jr., when a young man, moved with his family to Nobles-town, Pennsylvania, where he lived for some time and then went to Seneca county, Ohio, living there until February, 1855, when he moved to the wilderness of Isabella county, Michigan, where he secured land and lived for some time and then moved to Ionia county, where he secured forty acres of land located in Sebewa township, and there lived for the remainder of his days.

Robert Gibbs was married to Miriam Ames, who was the daughter of John and Sarah (Cheney) Ames, both the Ames and Cheney families having been prominent in the affairs of New York state. Miriam Ames came to Ohio with her parents, where her father secured a large tract of land, on which he lived for the remainder of his life.

George Riley Gibbs received his early education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and in the public schools of Seneca county, Ohio, after which he lived in Isabella county, Michigan, and later came to Ionia county, where he worked as a farmer for some time in the summer months and attended school in the winter. After the completion of his school days, George Riley Gibbs learned the blacksmith trade, an occupation which he followed until September 15, 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, a command with which Mr. Gibbs served until October, 1864, during his service being engaged chiefly in the duties of blacksmithing and in the care of wagon trains which supplied the troops of the Fourteenth Army Corps. As a soldier, Mr. Gibbs had many close calls from death; was a sufferer with typhoid fever on two occasions and at one time, after injuries received in a wagon train wreck, he was compelled to suffer many hours of hardship and privation before he was able to secure medical attention at a hospital which was located forty miles away, and to which he was transported on a two-wheeled ambulance. George Riley Gibbs fought in some of the most severe engagements of the Civil War and has one of the most honorable records of service.

After his discharge from the army, in October, 1864, George Riley Gibbs returned to Portland, Michigan, where he resumed his work as a blacksmith and where he followed the business of a wagon-maker for a short time and then engaged in the duties of his business at Maple Center, near the town of Lyons, a place where Mr. Gibbs remained until 1867, when he returned to Portland, and for the next five years worked as a blacksmith with an old employer.

During the month of May, 1873, George Riley Gibbs moved to Carson City, Montcalm county, and engaged in his business as a blacksmith and wagon-maker, until the year 1887, when he retired from active business, as a result of failing health. In April, 1889, Mr. Gibbs was appointed to the office of postmaster of Carson City, an office which he occupied most satisfactorily for eight years. Later, George Riley Gibbs entered the insurance and loan business field and now he is one of the successful and able men engaged in this line of work in Montcalm county. In addition to his other insurance duties, Mr. Gibbs, for about seventeen years, has served as solicitor for the Ionia, Montcalm and Clinton County Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

On July 5, 1866, George Riley Gibbs was married to Mary A. Howland, of Grand Ledge, who was born in Ohio, the daughter of Aretus and

Eliza (Aleen) Howland, early settlers in Grand Ledge, Michigan. To the marriage of George Riley and Mary A. Gibbs were born four children: Mamie, who is deceased; Frank H., a traveling salesman of Clinton, Iowa, who married Nettie McPherson and to whom have been born six children; Mabel, who is the housekeeper for her father, and George R., Jr., who is a licensed public accountant of Detroit, who married Grace Hill, of Williamstown, Michigan. Frank H. Gibbs and his wife have three grandchildren.

George Riley Gibbs has been prominent in the public life of Carson City and of Montcalm county, having served as assessor and having been a member of the street and water commission. Mr. Gibbs is a pioneer Mason of Montcalm county, having identified himself with this organization in the year 1865. He joined the lodge at Portland, where he took nine degrees. Mr. Gibbs was master of Carson City Lodge No. 306, for ten years. George Riley Gibbs is one of the honored men of Masonry in Carson City, his portrait now adorning the walls of the lodge hall.

THOMAS DAVIDSON DOW, D. D. S.

Dr. Thomas D. Dow, well-known and successful dentist of Stanton, this county, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession in that city since 1900, is a native of the British Dominion across the border to the north, having been born in Teeswater, Ontario, August 14, 1876, son of Thomas and Margaret A. (Davidson) Dow, the former of whom was a son of Thomas and Margaret (McDonald) Dow and the latter was a daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Campbell) Davidson, the former a son of George and Mary (Stuart) Davidson and the latter a daughter of James and Eliza (Reid) Campbell, the former a son of Alexander Campbell and the latter a daughter of Samuel Reid, son of William Reid, all of Scottish birth or descent.

Doctor Dow's paternal grandfather, Thomas Dow, came to this side of the water from Banffshire, Scotland, with his parents, Thomas and Jane (Dow) Dow, in 1832, he then being but six years of age, the family settling in Canada, and it was there the grandfather grew to manhood, married Margaret McDonald and reared his family. The third Thomas Dow was married at Detroit, the Reverend Worthington, rector of St. John's church, officiating, July 26, 1874, to Margaret A. Davidson, who was born in Ballymena parish, County Antrim, Ireland, May 1, 1856, and who was about six-

teen years of age when she came with her parents to this side of the water in 1872, the family settling about six miles east of Sarnia, Ontario, and was temporarily residing in Detroit when she married Mr. Dow. After his marriage Thomas Dow moved to Teeswater, Ontario, where he made his home until 1880, in which year he moved to Caro, in Tuscola county, this state, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on June 4, 1910. He was born in Fergus, Ontario, on October 31, 1853, and was a skilled mechanic, a vocation he followed all his life. He was a Republican and he and his wife were devout members of the Baptist church, with which church the latter, who is still living at Caro, is still connected, long having been an earnest exponent of all good works in that place. Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dow, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest, the others being James, born on July 13, 1878, who died in 1888, and William, May 22, 1881.

Thomas Dow, fourth of the name in his line, was three years old when his parents came to Michigan and his youth was spent in the village of Caro, with the exception of two years, 1888-90, spent in Sebawaing, in Huron county. Upon completing the course in the Caro high school in 1893 he began teaching school and was thus engaged for four years at East Dayton, Fair Grove and Watrousville, all in Tuscola county. In the fall of 1897 he entered the University of Michigan and was graduated from the dental department of that institution in 1900. During his college days Doctor Dow paid considerable attention to athletics and still holds the half-mile indoor track record for walking. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Dow came to this county, opened an office for the practice of his profession at Stanton and has been thus engaged there ever since, having built up an extensive and profitable practice.

On August 24, 1903, Dr. Thomas D. Dow was united in marriage to Marguerite C. Shutt, daughter of Mrs. S. P. Youngs, of Stanton, and to this union two children, daughters, have been born, Margaret Elizabeth, born on January 16, 1905, and Constance Rachel, May 8, 1909. Mrs. Dow was born in Ohio, and after the death of her father, Sanford A. Shutt, came with her mother to this county, the latter being engaged as a teacher in the Stanton schools, the daughter continuing her schooling, and was graduated from the Stanton high school in 1899. Doctor and Mrs. Dow take an active interest in the social life of Stanton and are held in high esteem by their many friends there and throughout the county.

Doctor Dow is a Republican and is now an alderman of Stanton. He

also is secretary of the school board and in other ways exhibits his interest in the general affairs of the city. He is a Royal Arch Mason and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of both of which organizations he takes a warm interest. The year after locating at Stanton, Doctor Dow was placed in charge of the "Marine" band there and has been director of that popular musical organization ever since. He is the owner of the office building in which he is located in Main street and is regarded as one of Stanton's substantial citizens.

CLARENCE A. SWEET.

Clarence A. Sweet, the son of Hartwell Prentice and Alta M. (Burt) Sweet, was born on January 1, 1879, at Carson City.

Hartwell P. Sweet was born on September 30, 1852, at Marshall and was one of a family of ten children of William Allen, Jr., and Maria (Farrar) Sweet. William Allen, Jr., was the son of William Allen, Sr., who was the son of Paul, the son of Capt. Silas Sweet, who was a captain on a merchant ship and later moved to Vermont, so that his sons would be away from the influence of the water and not become sailors. The son, Paul, was born on April 1, 1775, and married Rebecca Chadwick, who was born on July 21, 1778, and was the daughter of John and Mary (Allen) Chadwick. Mary (Allen) Chadwick was the daughter of William Allen, born on October 1, 1727, and Jane Spooner Allen, born some years before. William Allen was of an old Vermont family and related to Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame. William Allen Sweet, Sr., the son of Paul and Rebecca (Chadwick) Sweet, was born at Bedford, Vermont, in 1805, and went to Colburn, Canada, where he married Marie Farrar, a native of Vermont, who had gone to Canada with her parents, Prentice and Elizabeth (Osgood) Farrar. Prentice Farrar was the son of Stephen Farrar, who was born on September 8, 1738, and was the son of Deacon Samuel Farrar. Stephen was a graduate of Harvard and the first minister in New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He was married to Eunice Brown, of Waltham. He died in 1809. Deacon Samuel Farrar was born on September 28, 1708, and was the son of George and Lydia (Barrett) Farrar, the former of whom died in 1783. George, who was born on August 16, 1679, and married Mary Howe, was the son of Jacob Farrar, who was born in England in 1642, and emigrated to Lancas-

ter in 1658. He married Hannah Hayward, and some years later was killed in King Philip's War.

William A. Sweet, after many years' residence in Canada, became involved in the rebellion of 1838 and found it convenient to leave that territory and move to Marshall, Calhoun county, this state, where he worked at his trade, that of a cabinet-maker, and remained there until 1866, when he **bought a farm near there**, where he spent the remainder of his life, he having died in 1881. His wife died in Carson City in 1893. They were the parents of the following children: Harriet Elizabeth, Louise, William Allen, B. Frank, Kate, Hartwell Prentice, Jane, Lilly, Tom and Charles. Harriet was born at Colburn, Canada, in 1835, and became the wife of Orlando G. Post. Louise was born on October 19, 1838, and is the widow of Major James A. Strong. She now resides in Chicago. William Allen was born at Marshall, April 27, 1841, and served in the Civil War in Company I, Third Michigan Cavalry, from September 2, 1861, to March 15, 1866. After the war he was surveyor of Calhoun county for six years, after which he came to Carson City, where he practiced law and was county surveyor for three terms. B. Frank was born at Marshall on September 21, 1843. He was first lieutenant in the Fourteenth Michigan Light Battery in the Civil War. He now resides in Carson City, where he was engaged in the drug business from 1873 until 1901. Kate was born near Marshall and is the wife of Charles W. Hinkle. Jane, the widow of S. W. Davis, lives at Bay View and at Petosky.

Hartwell Prentice Sweet grew to manhood near Marshall and spent much of his younger life in travel. From 1871 to 1873 he was in California, where he followed his trade, that of a painter. He now resides in Carson City. On November 1, 1877, he was married to Alta M. Burt, who was born on March 19, 1861, in Gratiot county, a short distance east of Carson City. She was the daughter of William and Mary (Bemis) Burt. Her father was of a family of early pioneers of Gratiot county. In early life he became a marine engineer and was thus engaged at the beginning of the Civil War. He enlisted in the Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served as a brave soldier until his death on the field of action. He is buried in Tennessee. Mrs. Alta Sweet was a native of Ohio.

Alta M. (Burt) Sweet was deprived of a mother's care at an early age and lived for some time with an aunt in Ohio, until her marriage to Hartwell P. Sweet. They were the parents of two children, Clarence and Louise, the latter of whom is the wife of Ralph C. Miller, and lives on a farm near

Greenville. In 1915, after submitting to two operations for appendicitis, Mrs. Alta Sweet died on July 15, after loving hands and the best medical skill had accomplished all that was possible. During her life she was always an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church and took great interest in the various societies of the church. She was a kind neighbor and was ever ready to assist in sickness and adversity. Mr. H. P. Sweet is also a member and an active worker in the church. He has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the encampment at Maple Ridge for many years.

Clarence A. Sweet lived at home until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to live with his uncle, Dr. C. A. Sweet, at East Jordan. His intention was to be a doctor, but after one year's work he became aware that it would be impossible for him to operate and gave up the study. He returned home and engaged in painting and paper-hanging, which he has followed ever since. Mr. Sweet is a very active and influential Republican, and takes much interest in the campaigns of the party. He has served as a member of the town board and at present is completing his fourth year as treasurer of Bloomer township.

In 1901 Clarence A. Sweet was married to Pearl Dewey, who was born at Pewamo, and is the daughter of Fred D. and Eugenia (Vance) Dewey. They are the parents of two children, Paul and Mary.

Fred D. Dewey is a native of Pewamo, where he conducted a drug store until 1890, when he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he continued the business. He is the son of Thomas H. and Rachel (Harding) Dewey. Thomas H. was born in Connecticut on December 31, 1814, and moved to Lyons in 1837, having walked all the way. He moved to Pewamo about 1862 and clerked in a store for many years, later becoming a member of the firm of Coon, Dewey & Rickey. He died on March 11, 1903. He was the son of Christopher, Jr., and Hulda (Babcock) Dewey. Christopher, Jr., was the son of Christopher, Sr., and Peggy (Brown) Dewey, the former the son of David and Deborah (Tracy) Dewey, the former the son of Jabez and Deborah (York) Dewey, the former the son of Israel Dewey, Jr., the son of Israel, Sr., and Abigail (Drake) Dewey. Israel, Sr., was the son of Thomas and Frances Dewey. Thomas Dewey is known as the founder of the family in this country, having come from Kent, England, with Governor Winthrop and Rev. John Warham and settled at Salem in February, 1637.

Margaret Brown, the wife of Christopher Dewey, was the daughter of Ruben Brown, son of Humphrey Brown, son of Thomas Brown, son of

Nicholas Brown, who was the son of Edward Brown, of Worcestershire, England.

The family history of Deborah Tracy, the wife of David Dewey, has been traced through many generations. Her father, Jonathan Tracy, was the third son of Thomas Tracy, the settler of Norwich, Connecticut, who was the son of Gov. William Tracy, the governor of Berksey Hundred, from 1620 to 1622, in Virginia. Governor Tracy came to America at the solicitation of Capt. John Smith. After the death of Governor Tracy, his widow and young son, Thomas, returned to England. Some years later Thomas returned to America, settling first in Watertown, Massachusetts, then at Salem and later founded Norwich.

Governor Tracy was of noble birth, the family history being traced through nineteen generations to Lord Dudley and his wife, Grace de Traci, the latter of whom was a granddaughter of Baron de Traci, who came to England with William the Conqueror and fought in the battle of Hastings in 1066. Lord Dudley traced his history through four generations, to Ethelred, king of England from 979 to 1015. He was the seventh in the line of English kings, beginning with Egbert, who ruled from 800 to 838.

King Egbert's ancestry is recorded to Cedric, the first king of West Saxony, in 534, while that of Cedric is traced to Woden, who was master of a great part of northern Europe in the third century. Some claim to have traced this famous ruler through Darius to Japhtha, the son of Noah.

Eugenia Vance, the mother of Mrs. Clarence A. Sweet, was born on a farm near Pewamo and was the daughter of Madison R. and Mary (Beckwith) Vance. Madison R. Vance was born in Yates county, New York, on April 16, 1822. He was one of five brothers who moved to Ionia county and settled in East Plains. He was a man of robust constitution and was able to withstand the many hardships of pioneer life. By his efforts he was enabled to spend his later days in comfort and enjoy the respect and confidence of his neighbors and friends. He died on May 13, 1908. His wife, Mary (Beckwith) Vance, was born in 1825, in Monroe county, New York, and moved with her parents to East Plains, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Vance were active and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church until their death.

Mr. Sweet is a quiet, but sociable man, with many friends. He enjoys his beautiful home and family rather than the social life of the world. He is highly respected by all who know him.

HOWARD C. KIPP.

Howard C. Kipp, leading business man and prominent citizen of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Carson City, this county, on August 25, 1884, a son of Isaac and Drusilla (England) Kipp, natives of Ionia, Michigan, and of Canada, respectively.

Isaac Kipp, after the completion of his education in the common schools of Ionia, learned the trade of a shoemaker, an occupation which he followed after coming to Carson City when he was seventeen years of age, for some years. Later, the elder Kipp established himself in business as a shoe dealer, a business which he followed most successfully at Carson City until 1896, when Isaac Kipp moved to Greenville and opened a store, carrying a general line of merchandise and furnishings. As a merchant of Greenville, the elder Kipp prospered until he not only was the owner of his successful business, but was the owner of considerable property in this town.

Isaac Kipp was prominent in the efforts of the Democratic party in Montcalm county, and while a resident of Carson City was treasurer of the town for some time. Fraternally, Mr. Kipp was a member of Eureka Lodge No. 9, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Isaac Kipp was a leading member and worker of the Methodist church and for some time served as a member of the official board of this church at Greenville. Isaac and Drusilla Kipp were the parents of three children: Sadie B., who was educated in and graduated from the Greenville high school, she now living at home; Howard C., and Keith, of Greenville.

Howard C. Kipp received his early education in the public schools of Carson City, afterward becoming a student at the Greenville high school, from which institution he was graduated in 1903. Later, Mr. Kipp became a student of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, after two years of study at that school going to Chicago, Illinois, where he spent two years as an employee of the Western Electric Company. He then returned to Greenville, and on account of the disability of his father, took charge of the business interests of the elder Kipp, after whose death Howard C. Kipp continued in that work until a rearrangement of the business into a co-partnership, when Mr. Kipp was retained as manager. Howard C. Kipp now specializes in the grocery business, conducting one of the best kept and most efficiently managed business houses of Greenville.

During the year 1911 Howard C. Kipp was married to Adelaide E. Siple, who was born near Greenville, educated in the Greenville public schools

and graduated from the Greenville high school. Mrs. Kipp is an active member and devout worker in the Congregational church of Greenville.

Howard C. Kipp is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, and is a citizen who is active in the support of the policies and efforts of the Republican party in Montcalm county.

CORNELIUS DEYOUNG.

Cornelius DeYoung, well-known hardware merchant at Crystal, this county, and former representative in the state Legislature from this county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Grand Rapids, this state, January 23, 1860, son of William and Mary (Minderhout) DeYoung, both natives of Holland and both born in the year 1830, the former of whom, when a young man of nineteen, came to the United States and settled at Grand Rapids, where he engaged in the grocery business. Mary Minderhout was about twenty years old when she came to this country and she, too, located at Grand Rapids, where she and William DeYoung were shortly afterward married. They made their home in that city until 1877, in which year they came to this county, locating at what then was known as the Burke Pond saw-mill, on Fish creek, at a point now included in the southeastern section of the town of Crystal, and there William DeYoung bought the saw-mill and established his home, he and his family thus being among the very earliest settlers of that section and were among the leaders in the development of the now thriving little city of Crystal.

William DeYoung was one of the most active promoters of the growth of Crystal and was for years regarded as a leader in the business life of that community. He was a Republican and took an active part in the political affairs of the county, his thorough acquaintance with conditions in his part of the county giving much weight to his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers. He died in April, 1888, and his widow survived him for sixteen years, her death occurring in 1904. They were the parents of nine children, namely: James, who lives three miles east of Stanton, in this county; Daniel, who lives four miles east and one mile north of Stanton; Cornelius, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; John, who died in the fall of 1915; Engel, who died in 1912; William, who lives three miles southeast of Crystal; Edward, who is in the hardware business at McBain; Mrs. Mary Markum, who lives in Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Jennie Sykes.

Cornelius DeYoung grew up at Crystal and early acquired an excellent business training. In 1886 he began business for himself, starting a store at Fishville, this county, and was engaged in business there until 1890, in which year he returned to Crystal and engaged in the hotel business, and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time, in 1893, he entered the hardware field, opening a well-stocked hardware store at Crystal, which he ever since has conducted and in which business he has met with much success, long having been rated as one of the leading merchants of that town.

Mr. DeYoung has not permitted his extensive mercantile interests to detract from his interest in the public service and he has given close and intelligent attention to the civic affairs of the county. In 1894 he was elected clerk of Crystal township and served in that capacity for six years. He later was elected treasurer of the township, in which official capacity he served for one term, and in 1908 was elected as the representative from Montcalm county to the lower house of the Michigan General Assembly, his service in the Legislature during the session of 1909 being creditable not only to himself but to his constituency, he having acquitted himself in the House, in the performance of all the exacting duties of his representative office, with scrupulous regard to his obligation to his constituency and with an eye single to the public good.

On December 25, 1880, Cornelius DeYoung was united in marriage to Eva Case, who was born in Crystal township, her father a member of a pioneer family of that section, his mother, Emmaline Smith Case, having been the first white woman to settle in that township, and to this union two children were born, Ernest, born in 1887, now living at Crystal, and Lillian, born in 1894, who married Harry Rogers, and now lives at Alma. The mother of these children died in October, 1907, and in July, 1908, Cornelius DeYoung married, secondly, Bertha Owens, daughter of the Rev. David J. Owens and wife, pioneers of Crystal township, the former of whom, for forty years a well-known minister of the Gospel, is still living in Crystal, and to this second union one child has been born, a son, Austin, born on August 5, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. DeYoung are members of and earnest workers in the Baptist church at Crystal, Mr. DeYoung being the teacher of the young people's class in the Sunday school and are interested in all good works in their community, being held in high esteem among their many friends thereabout. Mr. DeYoung has been a member of the Knights of the Maccabees since 1895, in the affairs of which order he has ever taken a

warm interest, having been a member of the great camp, serving as great second master of the guards for one term and is well known among the members of that popular order throughout the state.

ELLIOTT O. BELLOWS.

Elliott O. Bellows, successful farmer and stock raiser, and citizen prominent in the affairs of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, on April 8, 1853, a son of William and Jane (Manning) Bellows, natives of Vermont and of McKean, Pennsylvania, respectively.

After their marriage, William Bellows and his wife lived at McKean, Pennsylvania, until 1858, when they moved to Smithport, Pennsylvania, which was their home until 1861, and then they moved to Tioga county, New York, where they lived until 1864. About this time William Bellows and his family went to Carroll county, Illinois, where, a year later, the elder Bellows purchased a farm of eighty acres, which he cultivated for three years and then, selling his land, William Bellows rented a larger farm for two years, afterward buying one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which he lived as a farmer until 1872. William Bellows and his family, with the exception of Elliott O. Bellows, the subject of this sketch, at that time moved to the state of Kansas, where the elder Bellows was prosperously engaged in general agricultural pursuits for the remainder of his days, dying on January 30, 1885. William and Jane Bellows were the parents of eleven children: Ellen, William D., Thomas, Orpha, Orcivilla, Cora, Lily and Lydia, who are deceased; and Ada, Elliott O. and Marshall N.

Elliott O. Bellows lived with his parents until July, 1871, and then after three months as a thresher in Carroll county, Illinois, he came to Michigan and located in Montcalm county, where he worked as a lumberman in the winter of 1871, and in the spring of the year 1872 took up duties as a salesman in a store at Langston, continuing in this work for three and one-half years. In the year 1875 Mr. Bellows again became a lumberman for one winter, and in 1876 he bought eighty acres of land in Montcalm county, which he cleared and where he farmed, alternately with his duties as a lumberman, until January, 1879, when Elliott O. Bellows sold his land and moved to Kansas and purchased a farm, on which he lived for two years. About the year 1881 Mr. Bellows returned to Mont-



ELLIOTT O. BELLOWS.

calm county, Michigan, and bought forty acres of land in Montcalm township, a place which he cultivated for about one year and in 1882, in partnership with Fred D. Buggs, he entered the mercantile business, two years later disposing of his interest and going to Canada, where he had charge of a crew of men engaged in construction work for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

After four months in Canada, Mr. Bellows returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, and purchased eighty acres of land in Ferris township, where he made his home for three years, until the spring of the year 1887, and then Elliott O. Bellows again became a merchant, starting a general store at Six Lakes, Montcalm county. During the month of February, 1890, the store of Mr. Bellows was destroyed by fire, and after rebuilding he sold his place of business to his brother and returned to his farm in Ferris township, which was his home until January 1, 1901. Elliott O. Bellows having been elected sheriff of Montcalm county, he moved to the town of Stanton, and there made his home during two terms of office. While living at Stanton, Mr. Bellows, in 1903, sold his farm in Ferris township, and purchased a farm of one hundred acres in Day township, a place to which he added land until he was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres. In 1911 Mr. Bellows sold the farm in Day township and a few months later bought one hundred acres of farm land in Sidney township, to which he moved in January, 1914, and where he now lives as a general farmer and as a raiser of purebred Guernsey cattle. In addition to his valuable farm, Mr. Bellows is the owner of fifteen acres of land in the town of Stanton, Montcalm county.

During the year 1875 Elliott O. Bellows was married to Mary Johnson, who, in the year 1883, died, leaving two children, Lily M. and Fred E., both of whom are deceased. In the year 1884 Mr. Bellows was married, secondly, to Mary A. Peal, and to this marriage were born two children: Severens E., who, after completing a high school education, became a civil service employee at Lansing, Michigan; and Inez, who, after completing her education, became a school teacher for a short time and then was married to Arthur Strouse, a hardware and grocery merchant of Stanton, Montcalm county. On April 20, 1904, Mary, the wife of Elliott O. Bellows, died, and some time later Mr. Bellows was married, thirdly, to Mrs. Evangeline (Baird) Shauman, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Miller) Baird, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they lived until moving to Ohio, and later to Elkhart county, Indiana, in

1865. Henry Baird, who was a wagon-maker, and his family lived in Elkhart county, Indiana, until 1870, when they moved to Michigan, locating first in Mecosta county; and then at Stanton, in Montcalm county, where they spent their last days.

Prior to her marriage to Elliott O. Bellows, Mrs. Bellows was the widow of J. P. Shauman, to whom she was married at Elkhart, Indiana, on April 28, 1879, after which they lived in Elkhart, Indiana, for some time and then moved to Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where Mr. Shauman was employed in a mill, he afterward going to Stanton, where he died on July 7, 1902. J. P. and Evangeline Shauman were the parents of two children: Olion, who, after completing a high school education, became a druggist, now being located at Chelsea, Michigan, and John H., of Greenville, Montcalm county.

As a public man and official, Elliott O. Bellows has taken a prominent place in Montcalm county, serving as sheriff for two terms, beginning on January 1, 1901. In 1906 Mr. Bellows was appointed to the office as postmaster of Stanton, being reappointed in the year 1910, and occupying the office until April, 1914. Elliott O. Bellows was a supervisor of Ferris township for six years and during a long term of activity in the Republican party he has been the occupant of various local offices, all of which he has served in his usual efficient and able manner.

Elliott O. Bellows is a prominent member of Stanton Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, is a well-known member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and together with his wife, is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. In church affiliation, Mrs. Elliott O. Bellows is a member of the Congregational church.

GEORGE EDWARDS.

George Edwards, a coal dealer of Sheridan, Michigan, was born in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, July 16, 1857, the son of George and Anne (Haysmer) Edwards. George Edwards and Anne Haysmer were both born in England, where they were reared and married, and, three years after their marriage came to America, their only child dying on the voyage across the ocean. Upon arriving in this country, they came direct to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, and, at the outbreak of the Civil War, George Edwards enlisted in the army, dying while in service. Four children were born to them after their arrival in this country: George, the subject of this

sketch; Herbert, who lives in Bushnell township; Frank, who resides in Ionia county, and Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Arntz, of Evergreen township. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Anne Edwards was married to Ceph Weigman, of Bushnell township, but no children were born to this union. She is now deceased, but he is still living in Bushnell township.

George Edwards lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started out for himself, renting a farm for two or three years, in which occupation he was very successful. At the end of that time he was able to purchase forty acres of land in Bushnell township, on which he moved and to which he subsequently added until he now owns one hundred acres in Bushnell township and twenty-seven acres near Sheridan. In February, 1911, Mr. Edwards came to Sheridan and engaged in the coal business, which he has followed since that time and in which he has been very prosperous. He rents the farm.

George Edwards was married on July 8, 1877, to Anna Minier, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Pennington) Minier, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio with their respective parents. They were reared and married in Ohio, and one son was born to them while still residents of that state. Five years after their marriage they came to Michigan and settled in Montcalm county. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living: James, who resides at Six Lakes, Michigan; Florence, the wife of David Youngs, of Evart, Michigan; Anna, the wife of Mr. Edwards; George, who lives at Millersburg, Michigan; Simon, who is a resident of Palo, Michigan; Howard, who resides at Lansing; and Clara, the wife of Walter Root, of Fenwick, Michigan.

To Mr. and Mrs. George Edwards have been born six children, two of whom, Mable and Floyd, died in infancy. The four living children are: Elmer, a farmer, who resides in Bushnell township; Earl, who is a resident of Sheridan and a railroad man on the Grand Trunk; Jesse, who lives in Bushnell township and farms the home place, and Ella, the wife of Hans Olson, of Lowell, Michigan.

Mrs. Edwards is a member of the Baptist church and an earnest worker in this congregation. Fraternally, Mr. Edwards is a member of Even Lodge No. 57, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past noble grand and which he represented at the state encampment in 1915. His son, Elmer, is also a member of this order and represented the local lodge at the grand encampment. Politically, Mr. Edwards is a Republican and has

always taken an active part in local politics. He has served as school director in his home district and is now serving his first term on the city council of Sheridan.

CHARLES W. RILEY.

Charles W. Riley, well-known owner and operator of the "Reo" garage in Lafayette street, Greenville, but formerly and for years engaged in the meat-market business and stock buying at Greenville, long having been recognized as one of the best-known business men in that city, having grown up there in business in connection with his father's long established business, is a native son of Michigan, having been born at Farmington, in Oakland county, this state, October 27, 1861, son of H. W. and Valeria (Wicand) Riley, the former a native of New York state and the latter of the state of Michigan, who for years were well-known and respected residents of Greenville, where both spent their last days.

H. W. Riley, who was the son of Henry Riley, came from New York to Michigan when he was a small boy with his parents, who settled in the Farmington neighborhood in Oakland county, where the lad grew to manhood. He was nineteen years old when the "gold fever" swept over the country, following the opening of the gold fields in California in 1849, and he joined the throng of modern Argonauts who sought their fortunes amid the hazard of the times in the West. He remained in the gold fields for six years and made some money, but was not sufficiently attracted to the place to remain longer and returned to Farmington, where he married Valeria Wieand, a native of that section of the state, whose parents had come from Cayuga county, New York, her father having walked from that state to Michigan to enter a claim in Oakland county, where he established his home and where he spent the rest of his life.

In 1870 the Rileys came to Montcalm county and settled in Greenville, where H. W. Riley opened a meat market and later formed a partnership with the Serviss brothers, under the firm name of Serviss Brothers & Riley, doing a general business in the retail meat trade and the buying and selling of live stock, which partnership continued for two years, at the end of which time Mr. Riley engaged in business for himself and was thus engaged until he retired from active business pursuits in 1905. His death occurred on May 11, 1910, and his widow survived him a little more than three years, her death occurring in October, 1913. They were the parents of five children,

namely: Alice, who married Avery Marks, now assistant postmaster at Greenville; Charles W., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Myrtle, wife of William Dreitzler, of Seattle, Washington; Ruth, who died in 1896, and Herndon, who lives in Seattle.

Charles W. Riley was about nine years of age when his parents moved to Greenville and he continued his studies in the schools of that city. Upon completing his schooling he became actively identified with his father in the live-stock business and was thus engaged until his marriage, at the age of twenty-eight, after which time he entered into a partnership with John Serviss in the meat and live-stock business and was thus engaged for two years, at the end of which time he entered into the same line of business for himself and has since that time conducted his stock business alone. In 1906 he became interested in the automobile business, financing the "Reo" garage in Lafayette street, and since 1913 has been devoting the greater part of his time and attention to the extensive and growing interests of that concern, having become one of the best-known garage men in this part of the state.

On May 27, 1890, Charles W. Riley was united in marriage to Alma Stevens, daughter of Royal and Jennie Stevens, well-known residents of Greenville. Mr. and Mrs. Riley take an active interest in local affairs and have a wide circle of friends, who hold them in the warmest esteem. They are members of the Congregational church and are deeply interested in the various good works of that religious body. Mr. Riley is a Democrat and is a member of both the Masonic lodge and the lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Greenville, in the affairs of both of which orders he takes a warm interest.

R. EARL LOWER.

R. Earl Lower, a leading merchant and influential citizen of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Oakwood, Paulding county, Ohio, November 7, 1882, the son of John A. and Jemima A. (Brand) Lower, of German and English descent, respectively.

John A. Lower, who was a son of Jacob Lower and wife, moved with his parents to Indiana from Pennsylvania and located near Waterloo, where Jacob Lower lived and died, after which John A. Lower and his family moved to the state of Michigan, in 1893, where Mr. Lower purchased a farm in Evergreen township, this county, a place which he now makes his home. John A. and Jemima A. Lower are the parents of one son, R. Earl.

R. Earl Lower received his early education in the schools of his native county, after which he came to Michigan with his parents and worked on his father's farm in Evergreen township until sixteen years of age, when he became a school teacher, the duties of which profession he followed for about five years. When about twenty years of age, Mr. Lower accepted a position in a store at Torch Lake, Michigan, remaining in this work for eight years and then he entered business for himself, purchasing a store at Sheridan, which he conducted successfully for about four years. Later, Mr. Lower disposed of his original store and, with H. W. Taylor, started another store at Sheridan, where he is now engaged, being one of the prominent merchants of this community. Mr. Lower is now the sole owner of the store, having purchased the interest of Mr. Taylor on October 28, 1915.

On November 26, 1902, R. Earl Lower was married to Rosetta Bennett, a daughter of Noah E. Bennett and wife, well-known people of Bushnell township, Montcalm county. To the marriage of R. Earl and Rosetta Lower have been born two children, Burton E. and R. Lucile. Mr. Lower and his family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sheridan.

Mr. Lower is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and he is a member of Even Lodge No. 89, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the encampment at Stanton. In politics, R. Earl Lower is an ardent Republican, having been elected as the candidate of this party to the offices of township clerk, treasurer and to a place on the village board of Sheridan.

MARTIN SCHRODER.

Martin Schroder is very active in community affairs and represents the agricultural interests of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He was born on November 24, 1860, in Uteland, Denmark, and is the son of Hendrick and Anne (Jansen) Schroder. Hendrick Schroder lived and died in his native land, and his widow emigrated to America, where she resided with her two sons until the time of her death. She and her husband were the parents of five children, three of whom are now living: Fritz lives in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan; Martin also lives in this township; Margaret, deceased, married Nels Petersen; Stina, deceased, and Matilda, who is the wife of J. J. Jensen.

Martin Schroder emigrated to America when he was twenty-one years

of age, locating temporarily in Jackson, Michigan, where he was employed in the Michigan Central railroad shops for six months. He then came to Montcalm county, Michigan, being employed by a farmer near Greenville for two months, after which he engaged in the lumber woods and continued in this business for six years. He then purchased a farm of forty acres in Sidney township, remaining there until in the fall of 1914, at which time he retired to the town of Sidney. His farm now consists of seventy-nine acres, thirty-nine acres having been added to the original property.

On October 30, 1884, Martin Schroder was united in marriage to Annie N. Marie Rasmussen, daughter of Rasmus Andersen, and they are both members of the Danish Lutheran church. Martin Schroder is also a member of the Danish Brotherhood. Politically, he is a Democrat and has served as township treasurer for two years. He is now serving his second term of office as justice of the peace. In school matters he has acted in the capacity of district school director, of district No. 8, in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan.

JOHN QUIGG.

John Quigg, a well-known cigar-maker of Trufant, this county, whose wife has been postmistress of that village since July, 1915, is a native of the neighboring county of Ionia, having been born in the city of Ionia, county seat of that county, on June 25, 1873, son of Harry and Mary (Bradley) Quigg.

Harry Quigg, who was born in the north of Ireland, came to the United States with his parents when a boy and grew up at Hudson, New York, where he learned the stone-mason's trade, which he later followed at Ionia, this state, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in 1879. His widow is still living at Ionia. Harry Quigg and wife were the parents of seven children, as follow: Anna, who married M. J. Callahan, a railroad man, who died in Chicago; Alexander, who died in the West; Mary, a clerk in a store at Ionia; John, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Henry, a boiler inspector in the shops of the Lake Shore Railroad Company at Hillsdale, this state; Margaret, who died at the age of twenty-four years, and Nellie, deceased, who was the wife of Harvey E. Kidder, now postmaster at Ionia.

John Quigg was reared at Ionia and remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, at which time he started to learn the cigar-maker's

trade, and has been thus engaged ever since. After working for three years in that place he started out as a "journeyman" cigar-maker and was employed at his trade at a number of different places until his marriage, in 1900, shortly after which event he settled at Trufant, this county, and has ever since been engaged in the manufacture of cigars at that place, becoming one of the best-known and most popular citizens of that pleasant village.

On February 14, 1900, John Quigg was united in marriage to Mabel M. Everetts, daughter of Albert and Ellen (Valentine) Everetts, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, and to this union one child has been born, a son, John Lawrence. Mr. and Mrs. Quigg take a proper part in the various social activities of their home town and are held in high regard thereabout. Mr. Quigg is a Democrat and ever since locating at Trufant has taken an interested part in local civic affairs. In July, 1915, Mrs. Quigg received her appointment as postmistress at Trufant and is making a very acceptable and competent official.

PETER PETERSEN.

Peter Petersen, the son of Hans and Johanna (Lamb) Petersen, was born in Montcalm county on October 27, 1885. Hans Petersen was born in Sjalland, Denmark, in 1819, where his early life was spent on the farm. At the age of fourteen he took charge of a farm for a widow and conducted it in a most satisfactory manner. He was married in his native country and there one child was born. His wife died a few years after their marriage and the husband and father came to the United States, landing at New York. He later settled at Greenville, with the family of Nels Hansen, whom he knew in Denmark. For a time he lived in Fairplain township and then became a resident of Sidney, where he worked in the mills, during which time he bought forty acres of land, which he sold later and purchased another forty, one mile from Sidney, where he lived until 1905, when he traded eighty acres of his then one-hundred-and-forty-acre farm for the store of which Peter Petersen is now the proprietor. The father and son conducted the store at Sidney, and an implement store at Greenville, until the death of the father, in the spring of 1912. Of the three children of the family, Peter and Chris are in the store at Sidney, while Alma is a resident of Lansing.

Peter Petersen was married on June 25, 1907, to Julia Nielsen, the

daughter of Olie and Mary Nielsen. To this union three children have been born: Myrtle, Violet and Margarie, all of whom are at home with the parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Petersen is a member of the Pearl Lake Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, the Gleaners and the Danish Brotherhood, in all of which he takes an active and prominent part.

Mr. Petersen and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in which they take great interest. Politically, Mr. Petersen is a member of the Republican party and has served for a number of years as a member of the school board and as its treasurer.

WILLIAM H. FULLER.

William H. Fuller has been connected with the sheriff's office for more than fifteen years, having served as deputy sheriff for fourteen years and as constable for fifteen years, also as marshal of the village of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan. He was born on April 4, 1843, in Springwater, New York, and is the son of Joseph and Angeline (Sparks) Fuller, both natives of New York. Joseph Fuller was engaged in the timber business and in agriculture, his son, William, having charge of the farm until he removed to Michigan. William Fuller was reared and educated in Springwater, New York, and came with his father's business partner, Jonathan Forbes, to Sheridan, Michigan, when twenty years of age. They arrived on May 20, 1864, and William H. Fuller began work in the timber, his occupation being to haul shingles and lumber from Sheridan to Ionia, Michigan. The place to which they came was virgin timber, with nothing but an old log house in which to live. He filled the position of teamster for three years and then purchased a farm of forty acres, in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, continuing to cultivate this place for five years. The farm was then sold and he removed to Evergreen township, locating on forty acres one mile north of Sidney and later he moved to Sheridan and engaged in the hotel business, running the Potter House, which burned, and he is now in the retail meat business.

In January, 1867, William H. Fuller was wedded to Alwilda Jackson, daughter of Henry Jackson, and of this union these children were born: Lillie, wife of Charles White, of Bushnell township, Montcalm county; Henry, who lives in Muskegon, Michigan; Claude; Ralph, who lives in

Sheridan, Michigan; Mina, and two others who died in infancy. Alwilda (Jackson) Fuller was born in Canandaigua, New York, and came to Michigan with her parents in 1863, locating in Ionia county, three miles north of the town of that name and in Easton township. She and her husband are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which denomination William H. Fuller is a trustee. Politically, he is a Republican, and served as path-master and street commissioner, also as an officer on the school board. In his fraternal relations, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Evergreen Lodge No. 87. He is also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

FRANK G. HANSEN.

Frank G. Hansen, the proprietor of a general store at Sidney for the past thirteen years, was born at Gowen, Montcalm county, on July 21, 1873, and is the son of Peter and Anna Hansen, both of whom were natives of Sjælland, Denmark.

Peter Hansen and wife, soon after their marriage, came to the United States in 1868, landing at the port of New York, they came at once to "Big Hills," two miles east of Gowen. Here Mr. Hansen was engaged in the mills and the timber business for fifteen years, after which he bought a farm of forty acres in Sidney township. By hard work and strict attention to business, Mr. Hansen has been able to purchase another forty acres of land, and today he has a well improved and highly developed farm of eighty acres, where he and his wife live and enjoy many of the comforts of life. To them have been born seven children, five of whom are still living: Frank, the subject of this sketch; William, living at Greenville; Tina, the wife of George Nelson; Alfred, whose home is in Detroit; Clara, the wife of William Peterson, of Grand Rapids, and Tina and Theodore, who died in infancy.

Frank G. Hansen's educational advantages were limited to the district schools, where he remained until he was thirteen years of age. At this early age he began to work for the farmers of the neighborhood. At the age of fifteen he began work for P. J. Despelder, with whom he remained for five years, after which he was at home for a year before he went to Stanton with the E. D. Hawley & Company for seven years. He then came to Sidney, where he was with C. W. DeHart for two years, after which he established his present mercantile business, in which he has been most successful.

On April 28, 1898, Frank G. Hansen was married to Anna Peterson,

the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Peterson. She was a native of Denmark and came with her parents to America when but eleven years of age. They came direct to Montcalm county, where they settled in Sidney township, where the parents still reside.

Frank G. Hansen and wife are the parents of three children: Mildred Geneva, who is a graduate of the common schools; Chester Raymond, a student in the public schools, and Leslie Ronald, now four years of age.

Mr. Hansen is a member of the Danish Brotherhood and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Hansen and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church. Politically, he is a Republican and at the present time the treasurer of his township.

LARS P. HANSEN.

Lars P. Hansen, a retired farmer of Sidney Center, Sidney township, Montcalm county, was born in Sjælland, Denmark, on November 28, 1845. He was the son of Hans and Bodel (Larson) Jenson. Lars P. Hansen grew to manhood and received his education in his native country, where he remained until 1868, working by the year for the farmers of the neighborhood. At the age of twenty-two he came to America, landing at New York, and traveled to Muskegon, where he worked for six months in a saw-mill. He was then on a farm in Ionia county for a year, after which he assisted in the grading of the Pere Marquette railroad, then the Lansing, Ionia & Greenville railroad. He was for five years employed by a firm at Dixon to work in a saw-mill, after which he worked for two years at Bass lake before he located in Sidney township, where he bought a farm of fifty-three acres, two miles west of the town of Sidney. Here he made his home for a good many years, but later sold this place and purchased his present farm of eighty acres in Sidney township, joining Sidney on the north. He owes his success in life to hard work and strict attention to business.

On September 13, 1873, Lars P. Hansen was married to Kathrina Sorensen, the daughter of Soren Madsen. Mrs. Hansen was a native of Denmark and came to the United States when twenty-one years of age, she and her brother, Mads, being the only members of the family who came at the time. She came to Gowan, where she worked until September, when she became the wife of Mr. Hansen.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are the parents of the following children: Sinea,

William, Carey, Regina, Anna, Theodore, Amelia and Albert. Sinea is the wife of Hans L. Jensen; William lives in Detroit; Carey makes her home in Grand Rapids, where she married Albert Wortman; Regina is the wife of Victor Johnsen, of Grand Rapids; Anna also resides in Grand Rapids, and is the wife of Fred Gaber; Theodore is at home; Amelia, the wife of Albert Myers, resides in Grand Rapids, and Albert, who married Flossie Fish, lives in Evergreen township.

The parents of Lars P. Hansen came to America in 1871 and settled in Sidney township, where they bought a farm and made their home the rest of their lives. Both are dead.

Politically, Mr. Hansen is a Republican and has served his party and the people of his community in various offices, having been highway commissioner for two years, township treasurer for two years, and for eleven years township clerk. He has also been assessor and school officer for his district.

Mr. Hansen and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church and take much interest in the work. Mr. Hansen has served the organization in a faithful manner as one of its officers.

ERNEST A. RUTHERFORD.

Ernest A. Rutherford, who conducts an elevator in Sheridan, Michigan, was born in Canada, January 24, 1870, and is the son of William J. and Matilda (Sternes) Rutherford, both of whom were natives of Canada, where they farmed all of their lives. They were the parents of eight children, four boys and four girls, John, Martha, William, Elizabeth, Charles, E. A., Clara and Nellie.

Ernest A. Rutherford received his education in the common schools of Canada and started out for himself at a very early age, working by the month at various places until he came to the United States on June 10, 1891. He had practically nothing when he arrived in this country, but he immediately went to work for an uncle on his farm and later leased the farm of four hundred and eighty acres. He remained on this farm for seven years and here he prospered and saved enough to get a start. For some time he carried mail on one of the rural routes, and six years ago went into the elevator business, but this was burned on January 24, 1915. He built a new up-to-date elevator in the spring of 1916, and also runs the Sheridan hotel, Sheridan, Michigan.

Ernest A. Rutherford married Dora Griggs, who was born and reared in Montcalm county, and to them have been born two children, William, who is twelve years old, and Dorothy, who is ten. Both children are now attending school.

Mrs. Rutherford and the two children are members of the Congregational church. Fraternally, Mr. Rutherford is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is the treasurer. In politics, Mr. Rutherford is an independent voter, and is a member of the Sheridan council.

OSCAR E. EHLE.

Oscar E. Ehle, a retired farmer, whose home is in Sheridan, was born on April 26, 1842, in Zora, County of Oxford, Canada, and was the son of Jacob and Mary (Hull) Ehle, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of New York.

Jacob Ehle was the son of Adam Ehle, who moved from Pennsylvania to Canada in an early day. Adam Ehle, the father of Adam, Jr., was a native of Germany and came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, as one of the early pioneers.

Mary Hull, the daughter of Hendrick and Betsy Hull, who were natives of New York, moved with her parents to Canada and there met and married Jacob Ehle. They made their home in Canada until their deaths, the father dying when Oscar E. was but nine years old and the mother passing away one year later. They were the parents of the following children: Mariah, Sophia, Charles, Edwin, Lena, Oscar, John, Dewey and Arthur. Of these the following are deceased: Mariah, who was the wife of E. H. Gray, deceased; Sophia, Charles and Edwin, who died in Canada. Of the living, John is a resident of Iowa, Dewey lives in Duluth, Arthur is a resident of Independence, and Oscar is the subject of this sketch.

Oscar E. Ehle, after the death of his parents, made his home with an uncle until he was eighteen years of age, when he worked by the month for others at teaming and at the lumber business. On February 24, 1864, Oscar E. Ehle was married to Mary Ann Tottle, the daughter of Joseph and Ann (Tuten) Tottle. She was a native of England and emigrated with her parents to Oxford county, Canada, when but five years of age. There she made her home with the parents until her marriage to Mr. Ehle.

In 1885 Mr. and Mrs. Ehle came to Sheridan, Montcalm county, and

bought forty acres of land, which was increased later to one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land. After the purchase of the first forty acres of the farm, much labor was necessary on the part of the young couple to clear and get ready for cultivation their newly acquired home. Yet by diligence and strict attention to business the wilderness soon began to blossom into well cultivated fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehle are the parents of the following children: Arthur Joseph, of Detroit; John Alfred, killed at the age of nineteen; Francis Dewey, a Baptist minister at Detroit; Milo lives on the old farm; Elbert Ernest, of Evergreen township; Charles Edwin, a Baptist minister of Bushnell township; James Harvey, of Sidney township; Carlton E., of Ann Arbor, and Gordon Stewart, who lives on a farm and is a mail carrier out of Sheridan.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehle are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are active in its various departments. Mr. Ehle is a Democrat, but has never been an office seeker, and favors the election of the best men to office.

ROY A. CUTLER.

A well-known and prosperous merchant of Sheridan, Michigan, is Roy A. Cutler, who was born on October 5, 1885, in Sturgis, St. Joseph county, Michigan, the son of J. G. and Mary (Allman) Cutler, the latter of whom died in 1890. J. G. Cutler is a native of St. Joseph county, and an active member of the J. G. Cutler Company. He started in business at Delton, Barry county, Michigan, in 1893, and remained there until 1906, when he came to Sheridan. He has remained in this city since that time and has become a very successful business man. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and, in politics, is a Democrat. To J. G. and Mary (Allman) Cutler were born three children: Carl J., one of the firm of J. G. Cutler Company, of Sheridan; Roy A., the subject of this sketch, and Belle, the wife of Homer Crandall.

Roy A. Cutler was educated in the public schools of Delton and, after finishing his education, was employed in his father's store for five years, after which he worked for the J. S. Goodyear Company for two years at Hastings, Michigan. When he was twenty-one years of age he came to Sheridan, at which time the present firm of J. G. Cutler Company was organized, and here he has remained since that time.

On June 17, 1908, Roy A. Cutler was married to Ethel Howard, who is a graduate of the normal school at Everett, Michigan, and who, before her marriage, was a teacher in the public schools of this state.

Mr. and Mrs. Cutler are members of the Congregational church, in which both are active workers, Mr. Cutler being superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally, Mr. Cutler is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and is the efficient master of the lodge. In politics, he is independent. Mr. Cutler is a quiet, unassuming man, attends strictly to his own affairs and is well liked by all who know him.

J. WATSON COURTER.

J. Watson Courter, a well-known contractor and mechanic of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Essex county, New Jersey, July 18, 1852, the son of Henry and Alice A. (Bowden) Courter, both of whom were born, reared and married in Essex county. To Henry and Alice A. Courter were born five sons, four of whom are living: J. Watson, the subject of this sketch; Frank, of Essex county, New Jersey; Theodore, of Portland, Oregon, and Anthony of Sidney, Michigan. The mother of these children died in 1861 and the father later remarried.

J. Watson Courter was thirteen years of age when he came to Sidney, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he received his education in the public schools. Mr. Courter was twenty-two years of age when he started out for himself, working first on a farm and later as a millwright and at various other occupations. He was always naturally skillful in working with machinery, and he still follows this occupation, also being a contractor, justice of the peace and notary public. Mr. Courter owns one hundred and twenty acres of land in the southeastern part of Sidney township, Montcalm county.

In 1877 J. Watson Courter was married to Alice Crane, a native of Newark, New Jersey, where she was reared and educated. To this union have been born four children, three of whom are now living: Anna, the wife of Bert C. Crawford, of Sheridan, Michigan; Frank H., a rural mail carrier on route No. 2, out of Sheridan, and Eva E., the wife of A. H. Brayton, a farmer in Sidney township.

Politically, Mr. Courter is affiliated with the Republican party and has always been active in local politics. The only official position which he has

filled is that of supervisor of Sidney township, in which he served for three years. Fraternally, Mr. Courter is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he has been secretary for the past twenty years, and Even Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past grand and member of the grand lodge. Mr. Courter and his daughter are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which his daughter is a past worthy matron and a member of the grand lodge. Mrs. Alice Courter died in February, 1908. During her lifetime she was also a member of the Eastern Star.

EDWARD G. MULICK.

Edward G. Mulick, leading florist and prominent citizen of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born near Mt. Sterling, Wisconsin, on December 8, 1870, being the second born of a family of six children.

Edward G. Mulick was reared on the home farm in Wisconsin, where he lived until ten years of age, and in 1880 moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in which city he received his education in the public schools. After leaving school, Mr. Mulick learned the trade of a cabinet-maker, an occupation which he followed for some time and then finding that indoor work was detrimental to his health, Edward G. Mulick went to the City of Chicago, Illinois. In that city Mr. Mulick was engaged in the work of building motor boats for some time and then for three years he was a builder in the United States navy yard, at Mare Island, California.

During the month of July, 1903, Edward G. Mulick came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and engaged in his present business as a florist, which Mr. Mulick has built up until now it is one of the largest and most thriving floral companies of this region. When the business was started the plant had but ten thousand feet of glass, there now being seventy-five thousand feet of glass in the houses, and the product is shipped to various parts of the United States. In 1903, when Mr. Mulick came to Greenville and assisted in the organization of the Greenville Floral Company, he was elected as secretary and treasurer, with R. F. Sprague as president, and John Service as vice-president. During the year 1914, Mr. Mulick took over all the stock of the Greenville Floral Company and now conducts this flourishing business, which is among the concerns of which Greenville, and the county, may well be proud.

Edward G. Mulick was married to Florence Eastman, who was educated in the public schools of Greenville, and at the State Normal College at Mt. Pleasant, after which she became a school teacher at Greenville for three years and at Capac, Michigan, for one year. To the marriage of Edward G. and Florence Mulick have been born three children: Mabel, Edward and Charles, aged nine, seven and two years, respectively.

Edward G. Mulick has served as a member of the city council at Greenville, and is a man who is active in the promotion of business and enterprise in the community. Fraternally, Mr. Mulick is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, is a member of LeRoy Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and is a member of Eureka Lodge No. 91, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

J. WILLIAM G. HANSEN, D. V. S.

Dr. J. William G. Hansen, a leading professional man, engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery and dentistry, at Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Fairplain township, this county, on September 16, 1878, a son of Nels G. and Karen (Jensen) Hansen, natives of Denmark, in which country they spent their early life, coming to America in 1871, and locating in Michigan, where the elder Hansen now lives a retired life at Greenville.

J. William G. Hansen received his early education in the schools of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, after which he became a farmer on his father's farm for about seven years. Later, Mr. Hansen went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and entered the Grand Rapids Veterinary College, an institution from which J. William G. Hansen graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Surgery, in 1906. After the completion of his professional education, Dr. Hansen returned to Montcalm county, and located at Trufant, where he engaged in the practice of his profession for one and one-half years. Dr. J. William G. Hansen came to Greenville in 1907, where he is now successfully engaged in the duties of his profession, having risen to a place of prominence among the leading practitioners of veterinary science in the community.

On May 27, 1914, Dr. J. William G. Hansen was married to Ann Kromain, who was born and educated at Greenville. Dr. Hansen and his wife now occupy a beautiful home which the Doctor has erected in Greenville (18b)

ville, and they are among the highly respected and esteemed people of the community. Doctor and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Danish Lutheran church and take an active part in the work and worship of this congregation.

Dr. J. William G. Hansen is one of the leading members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, in Montcalm county, for two years having served as secretary and treasurer of this organization, it being during his incumbency in this office that he realized the field of opportunity for his profession and therefore took up the study in which he has made such a notable success.

In the political life of the community Dr. Hansen has taken no especial part, preferring to serve as a private citizen in the ranks and as one ready to do his part in the advancement of general conditions in the town and county.

F. M. WYCKOFF.

F. M. Wyckoff, for twenty-one years a wholesale produce merchant, twelve years of which time he has been at Sheridan, was born in Tompkins county, state of New York, on June 13, 1876, the son of Ira and Christena (Metzger) Wyckoff.

Ira Wyckoff was born in the state of New York, of Holland Dutch descent and was the son of Jesse Wyckoff, was born in New Jersey, where he lived and died. The wife and mother, Christena Wyckoff, was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Metzger, of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively.

Ira Wyckoff and Christena Metzger were married in the state of New York, where Mr. Wyckoff was engaged in farming. They were the parents of four children: Loa B., in Greenville; F. M.; George L., who resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Jesse E., a resident of Greenville. Before his marriage to Christena Metzger, Mr. Wyckoff was married to Julia Ann Newman and to this union ten children were born: John, Levi, A. J., and Henry, all of whom are deceased; W. O., at one time president of the Remington Typewriter Company; Julia, the wife of Thompson Metzger, of New York state; Alvin, of Harbor Springs, New York; C. H., at Aurora, New York, was the originator of the Wyckoff strain of Single Comb White Leghorn chickens; Susan, the wife of F. Metzger, and Sylvester Wyckoff, both of New York.

Ira Wyckoff died in 1884, when the son, F. M., was but eight years

of age. The next year the widow and the children came to Greenville, where she has since made her home. F. M. Wyckoff entered school at his new home and completed the ninth-year course, after which he began to work. At the age of eighteen he began operations on the potato market. He showed keen and intelligent knowledge of the business, almost from the first. By close application to business and noting each detail of the trade he soon became proficient in the buying and selling and the handling of his products.

On September 10, 1896, F. M. Wyckoff was united in marriage to Caroline A. Wittkopp, the daughter of William and Minnie Wittkopp, all of whom are natives of Germany, and came to Montcalm county when Caroline was but two years old. To this union the following children have been born: Ainsworth, a young man of eighteen years and with his father in business; Howard E., twelve years of age; William Gale, ten years old; Marion C., six years old, and Frank M., Jr., two years of age.

Fraternally, Mr. Wyckoff is a member of Camp No. 7312, Modern Woodmen of America. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

EDWIN E. MOFFATT.

Edwin E. Moffatt, manager of the Hine Lumber Company, and a man prominent in the citizenship of Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Stanton, Michigan, on June 7, 1867, a son of J. L. and Julia (Gould) Moffatt.

J. L. Moffatt was born at Lockport, New York, where he grew to maturity and where he learned the trade of a shoemaker, an occupation which Mr. Moffatt followed in New York state until 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War, and was a soldier in various campaigns until the year 1865, when he was discharged at the end of the war. After the close of the Civil War, J. L. Moffatt came to his family, who were with relatives at Stanton, Montcalm county, Michigan, and here the elder Moffatt followed his trade of a shoemaker for many years, after which he became a carpenter and builder, a business which he followed at Stanton, Montcalm county, and thereabout, until 1883, when, with his family, Mr. Moffatt moved to Evergreen township and purchased forty acres of land which he cultivated until 1888, and then moved to Greenville, where he lived until his death, on May 27, 1911. J. L. Moffatt was buried on

Memorial Day and his funeral was conducted by the Greenville Post, Grand Army of the Republic, a detail from which acted as an escort to the grave. J. L. Moffatt is survived by his wife, who lives at Greenville, and by five children: Fred, a newspaper man of Breckenridge, Michigan; Frank, a merchant tailor, of Detroit, Michigan; Edwin E., the subject of this sketch; W. G., of Greenville, Montcalm county, and Roy Layton, who lives with his mother at Greenville. Two children, Bertie and Lola, are deceased.

Edwin E. Moffatt received his education in the Montcalm county common schools and at the high school of Stanton, after which he lived at home and worked with his father until twenty-two years of age, when Mr. Moffatt learned the trade of a cabinet-maker, with James Wheeler, of Stanton, Montcalm county. Later, Edwin E. Moffatt secured a farm in Evergreen township, which he cultivated until 1889, and then he moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and followed his trade for a short time, then moving to Belding, Ionia county, where he was engaged at the duties of his trade until 1894; during his residence at Belding also having been engaged in the meat business for one year. During the year 1894 Mr. Moffatt purchased a farm located south of the city of Greenville, Montcalm county, and lived there as a general farmer until 1901, when he went to Sheridan and there followed his business as a contractor and builder, a line of activity which he followed until the month of May, 1915, when he became manager of the Pine Lumber Company, at Sheridan.

On October 13, 1888, Edwin E. Moffatt was married to Anna Griggs, who was born in Ontario, Canada, a daughter of George and Mary Griggs, who came to Michigan from their home in Canada. To the marriage of Edwin E. and Anna Moffatt have been born four children: Harry W., who lives at home; Goldie, who, after graduating from high school, became a student of music at Chicago, Illinois, and Fred and Frank, who are attending school in Montcalm county, the former in high school, the latter in the grade schools.

Edwin E. Moffatt is prominently affiliated in the fraternal circles of Montcalm county, being a member of Even Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Sheridan; a member of the Evergreen Encampment No. 89, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America camp, at Sheridan. Mr. Moffatt represented his lodge as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the state encampment in 1913 and he is one of the best-known fraternal men of the community.

In politics, Mr. Moffatt is a Republican, one who is active in the affairs of his party. Edwin E. Moffatt has served as a member of the board of trustees of Sheridan, Montcalm county, and is known as a citizen of influence in the public affairs of this town. Mr. Moffatt and family are members of the Congregational church at Sheridan, and take an active part in the work and worship of this denomination.

WILL H. LESTER, M. D.

Dr. Will H. Lester, one of the foremost physicians and a man of prominence in the public life of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Greenville, this county, in the house where he now lives, on July 13, 1874, a son of Dr. Lyman B. and Amelia C. (Pulver) Lester.

Dr. Lyman B. Lester was born in Oswego county, New York, on December 28, 1827, was reared on the home farm and received his early education in the public schools of Oswego county, New York. After the completion of his preparatory education, Lyman B. Lester became a student at the Geneva Medical College, Syracuse University, at Geneva, New York, an institution from which he graduated, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1864. In the year 1867, Dr. Lyman B. Lester, his father having died, came to this county, journeying from Ionia by stage, at that time the railway ending at Ionia. During 1868 Dr. Lyman B. Lester opened his office and began the practice of his profession at Greenville, he continuing in practice for the remainder of his days, dying on September 15, 1915, and so generally loved and esteemed was Dr. Lyman B. Lester that the business houses of Greenville were closed during the hours of the funeral of this man who had done so much for the advancement of the community and who had given the greater part of his life to service in Montcalm county and the vicinity.

Dr. Lyman B. Lester was married on November 25, 1868, to Amelia Pulver, and to this marriage were born two children: L. B. Lester, now a furniture dealer and undertaker, at Freeport, Michigan, and Will H., the subject of this sketch.

Will H. Lester received his elementary education in the common schools of Greenville, attending and graduating from the high school in 1894. Later he was a medical student at Milwaukee for two years and then he went to Kansas City and completed his medical education in 1899, as a graduate of

the medical department of the University of Kansas. Immediately following his graduation, Dr. Will H. Lester returned to Greenville, Montcalm county, and opened an office with his father under the firm name of Drs. Lester & Lester, an association which continued until the death of the elder Dr. Lester, after which Dr. Will H. Lester assumed the practice of his father and now is successfully engaged in caring for his own practice in addition to that of his father.

On June 23, 1906, Dr. Will H. Lester was married to Effie M. Carroll, who graduated from the Greenville high school and then completed the life certificate course and graduated from the State Normal College, at Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1901, after which she taught in the Detroit public schools until her marriage. To the marriage of Will H. and Effie C. Lester have been born two children: Eileen E., born in 1911, and Wilma A., born in 1915.

Dr. Lester has been active in the public and official life of Greenville, having served two terms as a member of the city council and now is chairman of the board of health. In politics, Dr. Lester is a Republican.

Fraternally, Dr. Will H. Lester is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons; is a member of Chapter No. 79, Royal Arch Masons, and of the Ionia council; he is a member of the Greenville Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Ionia. Dr. Lester as a progressive physician is also a member of the Montcalm Medical Society, of the Michigan State Medical Association and of the American Medical Association. He is a medical examiner for a number of old line insurance companies.

J. W. TAYLOR.

As a resident of Montcalm county, Michigan, for a period covering almost fifty years, during which he has been closely identified with the farm interests of the community in which he lives, J. W. Taylor can rightfully be looked upon as an authority on all branches of rural economy touching the section of the state in which he resides. J. W. Taylor is a native of Canada, having been born twenty-eight miles from Ottawa, Ontario, on August 19, 1861. His parents were Robert and Elizabeth (Taylor) Taylor, the former of whom was born in the very same house which was the birthplace of the subject of this sketch. The paternal grandfather of J. W.

Taylor was James Taylor, who was born near Belfast, Ireland. As a young man he left the Emerald Isle to take up his residence in Canada. He settled near Ottawa, a location which at that time represented little more than a tract of wilderness. In that section of Canada, James Taylor was consequently looked upon as a pioneer. He grappled with the problems of the soil and was successful in his chosen line of endeavor, so that before his death he had acquired no small degree of prosperity.

Robert Taylor was reared amid the customs of a community experiencing its first stage of agricultural development, and as a child became accustomed to hard work. He lived on his father's farm until he reached the age of seventeen, when he turned his attention to learning a trade, and went to act as an apprentice in a shoemaker's shop. After spending several years at this occupation he returned to his home, where he divided his time between farm work and the shoemaking trade for over a year. After his marriage he went to New York state, where he followed the occupation of farming. In 1867 he was attracted by the possibilities offered in the agricultural resources of Michigan, and came to this state, where he settled in Maple Valley township, of Montcalm county. The farm, which was located in section 30, consisted of forty acres of unimproved land. Mr. Taylor was occupied with the interests of this farm for a period of two years, and at the end of that time moved to section 21, of the same township, where he bought twenty acres of land. In addition to farming he also continued to follow his trade as a shoemaker, which proved unusually profitable, since he was the only man skillful in that line of work in this township for several years.

The twenty-acre farm just mentioned remained the home of Robert Taylor until his death. During his residence here, however, he continued to add to his agricultural possessions until he had accumulated over two hundred acres of land. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor: J. W., who is the subject of this sketch; G. T., who resides in Maple Valley township, Montcalm county; William E., who passed away at the age of nine months, and Mary E., who is a well-known school teacher and who makes her home with her brother, the subject of this sketch.

J. W. Taylor received the advantages of a common-school education, and as a young man began his life as a farmer on his father's farm. After his marriage, which occurred on September 2, 1890, to Annie Althouse, the daughter of George and Lizzie (Soules) Althouse, he made his home on sixty-five acres of land he had bought near Coral, Michigan, where he has lived ever since, with the exception of two years which were spent on a

rented farm. It might be stated that the original farm has been extended to one hundred and twenty acres, part of which is located in section 28, of Maple Valley township. The residence occupied by the subject of this sketch is situated in section 21, of the same township, and is in rural route district of Coral, Michigan. Although Mr. Taylor devotes most of his attention to the lines of general farming, he also takes great pride in the raising of a high grade of stock, including Jersey cattle, Oxford sheep and Poland China hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have become the parents of the following children: G. H., who resides with his parents and who completed the course in the common schools of his native township and later attended the high school at Coral, finishing at the Ferris Institute; Eugene is a graduate of the Howard City high school, of Ferris Institute and also attended the normal school at Mt. Pleasant and at the present time is engaged in teaching school at Coral; Doris, the youngest child, is still attending school.

In his political interests, the subject of this sketch is prominently affiliated with the cause of the Republican party and his loyalty has been recognized by the members of the party, who have entrusted him with public office. He has been a member of the township board of review and has also served as township treasurer. For two terms Mr. Taylor held the office of highway commissioner, during which time he executed the duties of the position in a manner deserving the highest praise. In fraternal affairs he is a member of the Coral Grange, and serves that organization as master.

ERVIE E. DURKEE.

Ervie E. Durkee, a farmer and a former breeder of Oxford Down sheep, lives on his farm of forty acres in section 10, Maple Valley township. He also owns eighty acre of good land nearby. Mr. Durkee was born in Pavilion township, Kalamazoo county, on August 21, 1856, and is the son of Jason and Sabrina (Deane) Durkee.

Jason Durkee was born in the state of New York and moved to Charlestown township, Kalamazoo county, with his father, Thomas Durkee, when but a small boy. Thomas Durkee was a direct descendant of the Durkee brothers, who came to Vermont from Scotland in a very early day.

When Thomas Durkee came to Michigan he entered one hundred and forty acres of government land, which he developed and improved and here

he spent the remainder of his days. Here it was that Jason grew to manhood and later made a home for himself and family.

Ervie Durkee lived in Kalamazoo county until he was nineteen years of age, when he left the home of his father and came to Montcalm county and settled in Maple Valley township. Here the father, Jason Durkee, and the sons bought a little farm, which was cleared and developed. Ervie, besides working on the farm, did much teaming and lumbering for different firms for a number of years, and when the timber became scarce at home he hauled lumber for E. F. Ward for a number of years. After his marriage, on October 22, 1883, to Minnie Skeoch, the daughter of John and Christena (Soules) Skeoch, Ervie E. Durkee resigned his position with Mr. Ward and he and his wife lived at the old Skeoch home for the next six or seven years, keeping the family together after the death of the father. They later took up their residence on the old homestead of his father, where they cared for him in his old age. Here they have resided ever since.

Mr. Durkee is a Republican in politics, and held the position of school director for his district for twenty years. He is also an active and influential member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Coral.

OREN A. ROWLAND.

Oren A. Rowland was born on April 25, 1839, in Hamilton, New York, and is the son of Samuel and Lucy (Brondige) Rowland, the former of whom was a native of Rhode Island and the latter of New York state. They were married in New York and engaged in farming in that state, in Fulton county, remaining there until their death. They were the parents of eight children, Oren A. being the only remaining child. Six years after the death of Samuel Rowland his wife remarried, but remained a resident of her native state.

Oren A. Rowland received very little education, being forced to support himself while very young. He engaged in the lumber woods for several years, later interesting himself in agricultural pursuits. On July 4, 1862, he was married to Phoebe Covell, and to them were born fourteen children, eleven of whom are now living: Seymour, Joseph, Charlotte, William, Gusta, George, Meda, Oren, Ira, Charles and Bertha. The three who died were: Samuel, who passed away, aged thirty-seven years; William A., who died aged two years, and James S., who died aged seven weeks. Phoebe

Covell was born on August 17, 1845, in the state of Vermont and removed to New York state when a child of nine years. After her marriage she came to Michigan with her husband and they located on their present farm in 1869, their first house having been built of logs. The place was virgin timber when they first occupied it, but it was gradually cleared and they later erected their present house. The family are members of the Free Methodist church of Coral, Michigan, Oren A. Rowland being a trustee of this denomination. Although a former member of the Democratic party, he is now an active Prohibitionist.

EDWIN D. GREENHOE.

Edwin D. Greenhoe, for the past two years an insurance agent and real-estate dealer of Sheridan, and for twelve years a barber, was born in North Plains township, Ionia county, on April 17, 1869, and is the son of George M. and Mary M. (Greenhoe) Greenhoe.

George M. Greenhoe, the son of Andrew B. Greenhoe, is a native of Summit county, Ohio, and his parents located, as early settlers, in Ionia county, after their children were large enough to care for themselves. Andrew Greenhoe and wife, after moving to Ionia county, purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, which was cleared and improved by them, after which they sold the place and later moved to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, making their home with the son, George M.

George M. Greenhoe, after his parents left the home in Ohio and came to Michigan, remained in his native state and worked for others on the farm, after which he came to the home of his father in Michigan and here enlisted, in June, 1862, in Company I, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He served during the war and received his honorable discharge in June, 1865, and returned to the home of his parents. In November, 1866, Mr. Greenhoe was married to Mary M. Greenhoe, the daughter of Henry and Hannah Greenhoe, both of whom were natives of Ohio, and came to Michigan as permanent residents in 1866. To them have been born four children, all of whom are living: Edwin D., the subject of this sketch; Delbert S., a farmer in Evergreen township; Orman R., and Zerah M., carpenters of Sheridan.

Edwin D. Greenhoe remained at home until eighteen years of age, attending school in the district and assisting in the general work of the

farm. After leaving the home place he learned the trade of a shingle-weaver and worked for Neff Brothers, east of McBride, for several years, after which he worked at various places, but always at his trade, until he was twenty-four years old, when he returned to the old home. He assisted with the work of the farm and was engaged in the lumber business and did some trading.

On November 24, 1895, Edwin D. Greenhoe was united in marriage to Jennie I. Ludwick, the daughter of John H. and Sarah (Greenhoe) Ludwick. For one year thereafter he worked upon the farm of his father and then for two years he was with his father-in-law in the lumber business in Mecosta county. In 1901 he engaged in the barber business at Sheridan, and continued his shop until 1913, when he sold out and engaged in the insurance and real-estate business, which business he conducts at the present time.

To Mr. and Mrs. Greenhoe have been born two children: Otto L., who is in second year high school at Sheridan, and Helen L., who died on April 24, 1906.

Mr. Greenhoe is an active member of the Republican party, having held the office of town president, member of the council, assessor, and is now serving his second term as village treasurer. Mr. Greenhoe is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Sheridan Camp No. 7312, Modern Woodmen of America. He is at present secretary of the board of education of the Sheridan public schools.

CARL F. HANSEN.

Conspicuous among the residents of Montcalm county, Michigan, is Carl F. Hansen, who, by his indomitable effort, has won for himself an enviable place in the respect of his fellow citizens. Handicapped with a limited education and forced at an early age to become the arbiter of his own destiny, he has acquired an honorable competency while still young enough to enjoy the fruit of his labors. His birth occurred on January 24, 1867, in Denmark, and at nine years of age he began to support himself, acting as cattle herder during the summer months and attending school in the winter. When he was nearly twenty years of age he was given a ticket by his brother-in-law, said ticket being the means of bringing him to Greenville, Michigan, on May 13, 1887. He then removed to Gowen, Michigan,

where he was employed in the woods for some time, following which he was engaged as a clerk in the store of a Mr. Thompson, remaining in that position for several years. After a short time spent in Cadillac, Michigan, he returned to Gowen, and in 1892 made a trip to his native land of Denmark, where he remained only a short while. When he returned to Michigan he accepted a position as manager of Thompson's store, remaining there for a period of eighteen years.

In April, 1896, Carl F. Hansen was united in marriage to Anna Sorensen, a native of Maple Valley township, and they were the parents of one child, Hilda, who was born in April, 1900. Anna (Sorensen) Hansen passed away in 1906, leaving the husband and young daughter to mourn their loss.

In 1911 Carl F. Hansen purchased the bank which he still owns and manages, and is the possessor of country property and city real estate, all of which he has gained through honest endeavor. He is a member of the Danish Lutheran church, also of the Danish Brotherhood. In his fraternal relations, he is affiliated with lodge No. 500, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in his political views he is a staunch Democrat, serving his community as postmaster during President Cleveland's last administration. He has also acted as justice of the peace and in many ways been of service to the citizens of this locality.

THOMAS BATY.

Thomas Baty, the son of John and Jane (Scott) Baty, was born in Perth county, Ontario, Canada, on June 23, 1862, and now lives on his farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Winfield and Maple Valley townships, his residence being in Winfield township.

John Baty was born in England near the boundary of Scotland. There he spent his early boyhood and later emigrated to Canada with his parents. Jane (Scott) Baty was born in Scotland and came with her parents to Canada when but a child. The elder Scotts and Batys lived and died in Canada.

Thomas Baty grew to manhood on a farm in Canada and on December 21, 1884, was married to Matilda E. Ebel, the daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Crappee) Ebel. The former born in Montreal and the latter was of German descent, she having been born in Hanover, where she grew to womanhood and emigrated to Montreal at the age of nineteen. There she met and married William Ebel. Mrs. Ebel is still living at Stratford,

Canada, Mr. Ebel having died some years ago. To this union were born nine children, eight of whom are still living: William, Louis (deceased), Wilhelmina, Matilda, Sophia, Ernest, Herman, Louisa and Charles.

John and Jane Baty were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are still living: Richard, Jane (deceased), Robert, John, Marion, wife of Oliver Jones; Eliabeth, wife of David Ross; James; Margaret, wife of Joseph Woodhall; William; Isabella, wife of Thomas McGorman, and Thomas.

Thomas Baty and wife for two years after their marriage lived on the home farm of his father, after which they rented for one year and then moved to Howard City, where they remained for sixteen years, Mr. Baty being engaged in carpenter work. In 1903 they rented a farm in Maple Valley, and in 1912 they purchased their present farm where they reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Baty are the parents of eight children, as follow: Wilmena, living in Detroit; William and Tina Bell, both of whom died in infancy; Marian, who died at the age of twelve; Cleal and Charles, at home; Margaret, who died at the age of fifteen months, and Darwin, who is in the eighth grade of the district school.

Mr. Baty is a Republican in politics, and while interested in selecting the best men to office he has taken no prominent or active part in the political affairs of his community.

JOHN L. PENNY.

John L. Penny is one of the prosperous and influential citizens of this section and stands high in the respect of his fellow men, not alone for his honesty and integrity but for his progressive ideas as well. He is the son of William and Mary Penny, and his birth occurred on October 23, 1848, in Union county, Pennsylvania. William Penny was a native of Ireland and was the son of Thomas Penny, also a native of that country. He emigrated to America with his parents, who located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, later removing to Union county, of that state. Mary (Yoder) Penny was a native of Pennsylvania, and a resident of Union county, where her marriage occurred. Her birth occurred on April 22, 1822, and her death in February, 1904, her husband having died in 1858. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are now living: Harry is a resident of Pennsylvania; Mary J. is the wife of Seth Howard; John L., and

Clara, who is the wife of William Gundy, living in Union county, Pennsylvania.

John L. Penny remained a resident of his native county until he reached the age of twenty-one years, having attended the common schools of that locality until he was eighteen years of age. In the fall of 1871 he removed to Maple Valley, Michigan, traveling by the way of Chicago, Illinois. On May 5, of the same year, he was united in marriage to Addie E. Fralick, and of this union two children have been born: Arthur W. and Mertie M. Arthur W. is a graduate of the local high school and of the State University of Michigan, and is now a prominent attorney of Cadillac, Michigan. His birth occurred on May 5, 1875, while that of his sister was on April 20, 1877. She is a graduate of the common schools of Montcalm county, and is the wife of Albert Ede. The mother of these children is a native of Ohio, removing to this county when she was five years of age.

John L. Penny and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of McKinley, Michigan. He has always been very active in church work, as well as in fraternal relations and is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, in which order he carries insurance. In political views, he is a Republican, being much interested in local politics. The farm which he owns consists of one hundred and eleven acres of well improved land and is located two and one-half miles from Trufant, Michigan.

FRED S. PICKELL.

Fred S. Pickell, a farmer living on his farm of eighty acres, southwest of Stanton, was born in Jackson county on December 23, 1868, and is the son of Edson and Cornelia (Belcher) Pickell. Edson Pickell was born in Pennsylvania in 1842 and lived there till he was ten years of age, when he came with his parents, Isaac and Mary (Williams) Pickell, to Jackson county, Michigan, where he grew to manhood. Mary Williams was born in England and came with her parents to the United States when but a small girl. Isaac Pickell was of German descent, his forefathers having come to the United States at an early date. Isaac Pickell and wife both died in Jackson county some years ago. To them were born eleven children, all of whom are dead excepting Frank, who lives in Jackson county.

Edson was the fifth child of his father's family and he remained at home until 1861, when he was eighteen years of age, at which time he

enlisted in Company D, First Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He served with distinction during the war and was mustered out at Jeffersonville, Indiana, in the fall of 1865. He returned to Jackson county, where he was married soon after to Cornelia Belcher, and to this union were born three children: Charles, a barber at McBride; Seth, a farmer near McBride, and Fred S.

The wife and mother, Cornelia Pickell, died in 1872 and on July 5, 1873, Edson Pickell was united in marriage to Rose B. Mesler, who was born in Lake county, Ohio, and married in Ionia county, Michigan. She was the daughter of William and Rachel B. (Beam) Mesler, both of whom were natives of New Jersey. William Mesler was the son of John and Permelia (Snow) Mesler. John Mesler was a native of Germany and came to America as a small boy, while Permelia Snow was a native of France and came to the United States as a small girl and settled in New Jersey with her parents, where she and Mr. Mesler lived and died.

William Mesler and Rachel Beam were married in New Jersey, where they lived for some years, after which they were residents of Lake county, Ohio, for five years, when they moved to Oakland county, Michigan, where they resided for four years before taking up their residence in Sidney township, Montcalm county. Here Mr. Mesler homesteaded eighty acres of land and here they made their home until their deaths. They were the parents of thirteen children, two of whom are still living: Rose, who was born on December 10, 1855, and Edward W., of Sidney, born on June 24, 1862.

Shortly after their marriage, Edson Pickell and wife settled in Montcalm county, where Mr. Pickell followed teaming for a time, after which they purchased the home farm in 1875. Here he made his home until his death, on August 10, 1909, in Sidney township, where his son, Fred S., now resides. Mr. Pickell was a prominent Republican and for five years he was a justice of the peace of Sidney township and was a school officer for twenty-five years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 37, Stanton, Michigan.

Fred S. Pickell was married on February 1, 1909, to Edna Fleck, the daughter of John and Hettie (Morgan) Fleck. John Fleck was a native of Fairplain township and was the son of John and Mary (Butterworth) Fleck, who were natives of the state of New York and came to Montcalm county with their parents. They were married in the county and here made their home until their deaths.

John and Hettie Fleck were the parents of four children, all of whom

are living: Edna Fern, the wife of Fred S. Pickell; Cecil May, at home; George, a resident of McBride, and William, at home.

To Fred S. Pickell and wife have been born two children: Murl Servill, born on August 9, 1909, and Thelma Leona, who was born on November 1, 1910.

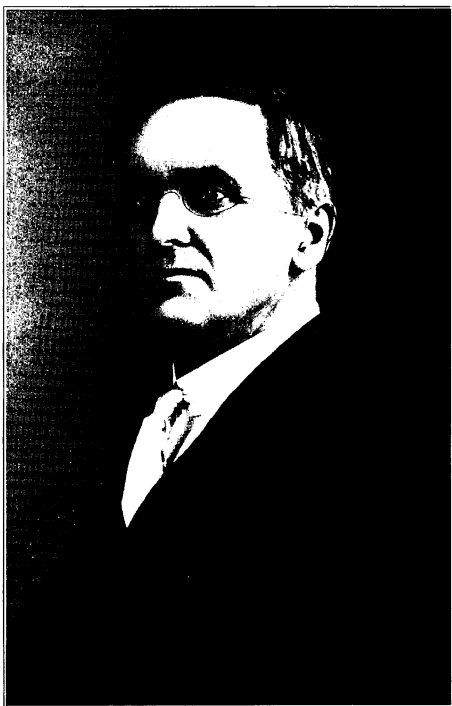
Mr. Pickell operated a threshing outfit for about twenty-five years, in which line his father had also been engaged. He now carries on general farming. In politics, Fred S. Pickell is a Republican, but has not cared to hold office.

ANDREW BRACE GOODWIN.

Andrew Brace Goodwin was born in Ronald township, Ionia county, on January 11, 1865, and was the son of Andrew M. and Cornelia (Talcott) Goodwin. Andrew M. Goodwin was born in 1834 in the state of New York and moved with his parents, Chauncey and Sallie (Hubbard) Goodwin, to Ionia county in 1840. The Goodwin family have been residents of the United States for many generations, Ozias Goodwin having come to Boston from London in 1632 and later settled at Hartford, Connecticut. Andrew M. Goodwin was the son of Chauncey, who was the son of Jesse, Jr., the son of Jesse, Sr., who was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on September 3, 1737, and later served in the company of Lieut. Thomas Bidwell, in the Eighteenth Regiment of the Connecticut Militia, which was stationed at New York from August 19, 1776, to September 8, of the same year. He was also a corporal in the company of Amaser Mills, in the regiment of Col. Roger Enos, which was organized for duty on the Hudson river. Jesse, Sr., was the son of Abraham, the son of Nathaniel, the son of William, who was the son of Ozias, who with his brother, William, came to the United States from England. The family connection has been traced to 1519, when they lived in Braintree, Essex county, England.

Among the prominent descendants of the Goodwin family is Judge Daniel Goodwin, of Detroit, who was chairman of the Constitutional convention of 1850. Another of the family is James Junius Goodwin, at one time a partner of J. Pierpont Morgan, who prepared an exhaustive history of the Goodwin family.

After taking up his residence in Michigan, Chauncey Goodwin devoted the rest of his life to farming in Ionia county, where Andrew M. grew to



ANDREW B. GOODWIN.

manhood and received his education in the common schools of the state and where he spent his life as a farmer, having died in 1865.

Cornelia (Talcott) Goodwin, the wife of Andrew M., was born in Madison, New York, in 1835, and was the daughter of Ebenezer and Ruby S. (Risley) Talcott. The Talcotts came to Michigan, settling in Ionia county, where the mother died in 1869.

Andrew Brace Goodwin is one of a family of three children: Charles L., of Orange township; Ida M., widow of Robert B. Catt, who lives on the old home farm, and Andrew Brace, who was but a baby when his father died and but three years old at the death of his mother. The brother, Charles, is a man of much force and influence in the community, having been register of deeds in Ionia county for two terms and a member of the board of supervisors for six years. He is a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College and is active in all public affairs.

After the death of the parents of young Andrew he lived with relatives until he was about fourteen years of age when he went to work on a farm and attended school, later graduating from the Michigan Agricultural College in the class of 1888, after which he lived on a farm for three years and then read law with Chaddock & Sculley, at Ionia, and was admitted to the bar in 1894. After his admission he came to Carson City where he has been engaged in the profession and where he has been eminently successful.

Mr. Goodwin is allied with the Democratic party and is very active in its campaigns. He takes a great interest in all public affairs and is an influence for all that is good and progressive. He has held many minor local offices and at the present time is the efficient postmaster of his home town. For some years he was the secretary and later the treasurer of the central committee.

On September 4, 1889, Andrew B. Goodwin was married to Nellie Rose Klotz, a native of Ionia county, and the daughter of Augustus F. and Sarah (Nicholson) Klotz. Her father came from Germany with his parents and located in Ionia county, where he has lived the life of a farmer. Sarah (Nicholson) Klotz was reared in Ionia county and there the daughter, Nellie Rose, lived until her marriage, after which she lived in Carson City until her death in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin were the parents of three children: Harold Klotz, Raymond Irving and Andrew Fred. Raymond and Andrew are at home. Harold assists his father in the postoffice. Mr. Goodwin belongs to the Masonic order and is secretary of his lodge in Carson City. The family are active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church

and before the death of Mrs. Goodwin she took much interest in all church work. Harold married Gertrude E. Alsap and is now keeping house in Carson City.

JACOB W. DURST.

Among the citizens of Canadian birth whose services have contributed to the material progress of Montcalm county, Michigan, is Jacob W. Durst, who has followed the occupation of a farmer here for a number of years and whose loyalty to the county in which he resides is of the most insistent order. He was born on October 11, 1866, on a farm in Perth county, Ontario, Canada, and is the son of Daniel and Caroline (Brunner) Durst, both of whom were natives of Canada. Daniel Durst was the son of Adam Durst, who was born in Germany, and who came to Canada, after his marriage, where his family was reared. The parents of Caroline Brunner were also natives of Germany, who settled first in Canada and later in Montcalm county, Michigan, where they passed away.

Daniel Durst lived in Canada for a number of years after his marriage, where eight of his children were born. The family came to the United States in 1886, locating in Maple Valley township, of Montcalm county, where Mr. Durst bought eighty acres of land. Mrs. Durst died in 1889, and her husband continues to reside on the home place. Daniel Durst and his wife became the parents of the following children: Jacob W., the subject of this sketch; Adam, who died after reaching the age of manhood; Mary, who became the wife of B. M. Burt, of Maple Valley; Daniel, who resides in Pierson township; Ellen, the wife of Charles Foss, of Owasse, Michigan; John, who lives near Coral, in Maple Valley township; Frank, who is living in Maple Valley township; Edgar, who is a resident of the place just mentioned, and Pearl, who is the wife of George Snow, of Maple Valley, Montcalm county.

Jacob W. Durst, after gaining the educational advantages offered in his native county, assisted his father in the work on the home farm, where he obtained the most valuable experience in his chosen field of endeavor. The subject of this sketch remained at home until his marriage, which took place in 1891, when he moved to the farm he now occupies. The farm is located in section 18, Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, and consists of one hundred and twenty acres, eighty acres of which Mr. Durst purchased before his marriage. On this farm he follows the lines of general

farming, devoting a great part of his time to the raising of high-grade stock. Mr. Durst is a man of high principles, who has attained success through his devotion to duty and his ability to meet the problems of the soil. He enjoys a wide acquaintance among the citizens of the community in which he resides and is looked upon as a man to whom worthy recognition is due.

The marriage of Jacob Durst to Nettie Backart, the daughter of Julius and Luck Backart, took place in February, 1891. Mr. Backart was a native of Germany. The following children have been born to this union: Ralph J., who married Florence Curtis, and who has one child, Iris Vivian; Carrie, Lucy, George and Donald, all of whom are living with their parents.

In political affairs, the subject of this sketch gives support to the principles of the Republican party. He is also an enthusiast on educational affairs, and is acting as director of the school district in which he resides. an office he has held for the past three years.

BERNARD NORTON.

Bernard Norton, a well-known general merchant, liveryman and dealer in produce, coal and wood at Trufant, this county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the neighboring county of Kent on August 25, 1873, son of Edward and Jane (O'Brien) Norton, both natives of Ireland and pioneer residents of the section in which they lived in Kent county.

Edward Norton and his wife came to the United States not long after their marriage and settled in Kent county, this state. They were without material means, but both possessed stout hearts and willing hands and they set about making a new home in the woods and were so diligent in their affairs that at the time of his death Edward Norton was the owner of a fine farm of one hundred acres and his family had been reared in substantial comfort. He and his wife were earnest members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom seven are now living, those besides the subject of this biographical sketch being James P., a farmer, produce dealer and elevator man, of Mosley, Kent county, this state; Charles E., head of the firm of Charles E. Norton & Company, dealers in women's furnishings, carpets and draperies at Grand Rapids, this state; George A., who owns and operates the old home farm in Kent county; Catherine, wife of Daniel Weaver, of Grand Rapids; Celia, wife of Neil Pelnode, of Muskegon, this state, and

Jennie V., wife of Roy Howard, of Grand Rapids, all of whom are doing well their respective parts in life.

Bernard Norton was reared on the home farm in Kent county, receiving his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood, and early began his career in business. At the age of twenty-two he married Katherine O'Donnell, who was born in New York state and who had come to this section of the state in her girlhood with her parents, and not long after that event began his career as a business man in Trufant. Mr. Norton is engaged in the produce, coal and wood business and is besides the owner of the livery stable at Trufant and the owner of the warehouse at the same place, being quite successful in his several ventures and regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of that place.

To Bernard and Katherine (O'Donnell) Norton five children have been born, Lenore, Manus and Margaret (twins), Helen and Bernard, Jr. Of these children, Margaret is now a student in the Michigan State Normal School. Mr. and Mrs. Norton are members of the Catholic church and their children have been reared in that faith. The family is active in the general social life of the community and is held in high esteem by all thereabout. Mr. Norton is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to the political affairs of the county, but is not included in the office-seeking class of politicians.

GEORGE H. MADDHES.

George H. Maddhes is deserving of the respect in which he is held by his fellow citizens, for, when only nine years of age, he was called upon to shoulder many responsibilities which are meant for older persons. His birth occurred on August 10, 1872, in Pierson township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and he is the son of Fred and Amelia (Pierson) Maddhes, both natives of Germany, who emigrated to Canada, where they were married. They purchased an eighty-acre farm in Pierson township, of this county, and removed there after a short sojourn in Lowell, Kent county, Michigan, making the trip by ox-team. The farm was virgin soil and heavily covered with timber, but a log cabin was soon built in the wilderness, and the cultivation of the land was begun, improvements were made and the property was increased until the place consisted of two hundred and forty acres. While at work in the woods Fred Maddhes was killed by a falling tree. Four chil-

dren were born to this union, two of whom met tragic deaths, and George H. Maddhes is the only surviving child.

George H. Maddhes was reared on the home farm, receiving his education in the district schools of this county, but discontinuing his studies at an early age. On July 5, 1892, he was married to Amelia Johnson, daughter of Nels Johnson, of Coral, Michigan, and to them has been born one child, namely, Fred B., whose birth occurred on February 1, 1893, and who is a graduate of the common schools of this locality. Amelia Johnson was born in 1875. George H. Maddhes is a Republican in his political affiliations.

JOHN REYNOLDS.

John Reynolds, ex-postmaster at Trufant, coroner of Montcalm county and for many years a well-known merchant of the pleasant village of Trufant, where he is engaged in the general produce business very successfully, is a native of England, having been born in Yorkshire on December 22, 1850, son of John and Sarah (Green) Reynolds, and was reared in that country, learning the trade of machinist. Mr. Reynolds remained in his native country until he was eighteen years of age, at which time, in company with an elder sister, he came to the United States, the two of them proceeding directly to Michigan and settling in Greenville, this county. John Reynolds remained in the village about a year after locating there and then was employed on farms in that neighborhood for a couple of years, having been thus employed by Henry and Moses Barage. He then took employment in the lumber woods and displayed such capacity for this form of activity that he soon was promoted to the position of foreman and served as foreman for such well-known lumbermen as William Steele, James M. White, Horace Peck and W. H. Walker, during which time he gained a wide acquaintance throughout this section, becoming one of the best-known timbermen in this region.

During his service as a lumberman, Mr. Reynolds had been located for awhile at Trufant, in the interest of Peck & Brown, and became so well pleased with the conditions existing in the village that he decided to make his home there, and presently did establish his home in Trufant, about 1895, and engaged in the produce business, which he has conducted with much success ever since, being looked upon as one of the oldest and most substantial business men of that village. Mr. Reynolds is a Republican, and

ever since locating in this county has taken a warm interest in political affairs. In 1895 he was elected coroner of Montcalm county, and so efficiently did he perform the duties of that office that he has been continuously retained in the office ever since, probably a record for continuous public service in this part of the state. In 1905 Mr. Reynolds was commissioned postmaster of Trufant, and continued in that office until 1915, the duties of which he administered to the entire satisfaction of that part of the public hereabout which is served from the Trufant postoffice.

On January 1, 1886, John Reynolds was united in marriage at Trufant to Cora Kilburn, daughter of Dr. J. T. and Emily Kilburn, natives of Ohio and prominent early settlers at Trufant, and to this union three children were born, Floyd, Ruth and Maude, all of whom have been graduated from the Trufant high school. Floyd Reynolds, who also is a graduate of Ferris Institute, is now prominently connected with the Buick Manufacturing Company, at Flint, this state. Mrs. Reynolds died on August 31, 1914.

Mr. Reynolds is a member of the Baptist church and takes an active interest in all local good works, being a very highly esteemed citizen of Trufant, held in high regard throughout the whole county. He is a charter member of Trufant Lodge No. 456, Free and Accepted Masons, and was a prime factor in the organization of that lodge. He also is a member of the Order of the Knights of the Maccabees, and in the affairs of both of these orders takes a warm interest.

NELS P. RASMUSSEN.

Nels P. Rasmussen, produce buyer and farmer of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on August 12, 1877, in Denmark, and emigrated to America with his parents when he was four years and eight months of age. He received his education in the public schools of Trufant, Michigan, in which town his parents had located upon their arrival. At eighteen years of age he was employed in the potato business, in which he continued for about seven years, later becoming the manager for several large firms for whom he operated for six years. In 1902, Nels P. Rasmussen returned to his native land and there met Anna J. Motisen who promised to become his wife. Some months after his return to his home in Michigan, on April 5, 1903, she came to this country, their wedding occurring on April 13 of the same year. To this union have been born four children: Adolf, Megrada, Oleva and Chris.

Nels P. Rasmussen and his wife are members of the Danish Lutheran church, of Trufant, Michigan. In his fraternal relations he is affiliated with the Danish Brotherhood, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the New Era, in which order he is past grand. Politically, he is a staunch Republican and active in the furtherance of party principles. He is the owner and manager of two of the finest truck farms in this section and has a fine home, the entire place being a model of order and well-directed effort.

OSCAR T. HANSEN.

Oscar T. Hansen, well-known elevator and mill man and cigar-maker at Trufant, this county, is a native of Montcalm county, having been born on a farm near the village of Coral on June 23, 1885, son of Jens and Mary Hansen, well-known residents of that neighborhood, who are now living retired in the pleasant village of Trufant.

Jens Hansen grew to manhood in his native land, Denmark, coming to the United States when he was about twenty-one years of age. For some little time after coming here he worked on a railroad near Detroit and then came to this county, taking employment in a lumber mill at Coral and was thus engaged for several years. In the meantime he bought a farm in that neighborhood, on which he made his home, continuing, however, to work at the mill until he had his place cleared, after which he began farming and was so engaged until about 1890, when he moved to Trufant, which has been his home ever since. Upon locating at Trufant he bought the feed mill there and operated the same until 1907, in which year his son, Oscar, bought him out and has since continued to operate the mill, Jens Hansen living a retired life in the village. For a number of years the Hansen family, in addition to owning and operating the mill, also owned and operated a general store at Trufant, but this latter establishment was sold in 1912. To Jens Hansen and wife four children have been born, namely: H. Chris, a farmer living near Lansing, this state; Anna, who is the wife of N. C. Nielsen, of Grayling, this state; Oscar, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and Martin, who is in the mercantile business at Eaton Rapids, this state.

Oscar T. Hansen was about five years of age when his parents moved from the farm into Trufant and he grew up in the village, becoming thoroughly familiar with his father's milling business, which he has continued

to operate with much success since taking it over in 1907. In addition to his milling business, Mr. Hansen also is engaged in the manufacture of cigars, several brands of cigars which he manufactures having attained wide popularity throughout this section of the state. Mr. Hansen is a Republican and ever since attaining his majority has taken a warm interest in local civic affairs. He has served as township clerk and is now secretary of the local board of education, a form of public service to which he gives his most thoughtful and intelligent attention, his interest in the public service and his activity in business circles causing him to be regarded as one of the most energetic and public-spirited young men in that part of the county.

On June 27, 1907, Oscar T. Hansen was united in marriage to Sena Petersen, daughter of Mrs. B. Petersen, of Trufant, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Jack Mervin. Mrs. Hansen was graduated from the Trufant and the Greenville schools, supplementing this period of schooling by a course in a business college at Big Rapids, after which she was engaged for several years as a teacher in the high school at Greenville. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen take an interested part in the social life of their community and are held in high regard by all thereabout. Mr. Hansen is a member of the local lodge of the Danish Brotherhood Society, and is also a member of Trufant Lodge No. 456, Free and Accepted Masons.

ALBERT E. EDE.

Albert E. Ede, a well-known farmer and stock raiser of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Grand Rapids, January 6, 1870, the son of Edwin and Permelia (Hill) Ede. Edwin Ede was born in Aldershot, England, and lived there until nine years of age, when, his father having died, he ran away from home and worked his way across the ocean to Quebec. After landing in Canada, he had a hard time to get anything to do, owing to his extreme youth, but finally secured work with a lumber company, at which he worked for one year. He then went to a village called Hamilton, where he worked in a mill, remaining there until he was married. He married Permelia Hill, the daughter of Andrew Hill, who conducted a mill and tavern in Hamilton. In 1868 he moved to Grand Rapids, where he was employed in a lath mill until 1883, when he purchased a farm in Montcalm county, where he lived until his death, on January 8, 1912. His wife had died many years previously, on October 12,

1883. They were the parents of five children: Leah, who married Emil Worth and lives in Kewanee, Illinois; Albert E., the subject of this sketch; Ellen, who married Fred Robinson and who died in 1891; Eva, the wife of William Kilts, of Grand Rapids, and Harvey, who lives in Chicago.

Albert E. Ede received his education in the public schools of Maple Valley township and Grand Rapids, and was fourteen years of age when his parents moved to the homestead farm in Montcalm county. He lived at home until he was married, after which he purchased a farm of forty acres across the road from his father and lived there until 1912, when he bought the old home farm, which contains one hundred and twenty acres and where he now lives.

Albert E. Ede was married on March 17, 1897, to Myrtle Penny, the daughter of John Penny, of Maple Valley. To this union has been born one daughter, Gladys Mildred, who is now a senior in the Howard City high school.

Fraternally, Mr. Ede is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Knights of the Maccabees at Coral. Politically, Mr. Ede is affiliated with the Republican party and takes an active interest in measures which stand for the welfare of his township and county. Having lived in this county practically all of his life, Mr. Ede is well known and has a host of friends and acquaintances throughout Montcalm county, by whom he is highly respected.

OSCAR E. NELSON.

Oscar E. Nelson, successful farmer and stock raiser, of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Yates county, New York, on October 18, 1882, a son of Charles and Hanna (Grimbeck) Nelson, natives of Sweden.

Charles Nelson came to America as a young man, and engaged in railway construction work, he, a year later, being married to Hanna Grimbeck, whom he had known in his native country and who came to America and located in New York state, where they were married. Later, Charles Nelson and his family moved to Michigan, in 1883, and located in Sidney township, Montcalm county, where the elder Nelson purchased a farm on which he made his home for the remainder of his days. To the marriage of Charles and Hanna Nelson were born two children, John and Oscar, both

of whom are farmers of Sidney township, Montcalm county. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson were members of the Lutheran church.

Oscar E. Nelson received his education in the schools of Montcalm county, after which he became a farmer, working on the home farm for some years and later securing the home place, which he improved and to which he has added land until now he is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved and highly-cultivated soil. On his farm in Sidney township Oscar E. Nelson is successfully engaged in general farming and in the raising of large quantities of good grade live-stock, Durham and Holstein cattle. Mr. Nelson has spent the whole of his active life on his present farm, with the exception of one year, when he was an employee of a shingle-mill at Langston, Michigan. The farm is located on Long lake and here Mr. Nelson has a fine home.

On June 29, 1911, Oscar E. Nelson was married to Edna Curtis, a daughter of James and Susan Curtis. Oscar and Edna Nelson are the parents of one child, Norma Marine, who was born on October 11, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Congregational church in Sidney township, they being well-known members of this church.

Oscar E. Nelson is an active member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, at Stanton, Montcalm county, and is a citizen who affiliates himself with all movements and projects having for their object the advancement of the interests of Sidney township and Montcalm county. In politics, Mr. Nelson is a Republican, and his father was also active in that party.

SIMON OSWALD.

Simon Oswald is a native of Germany, having been born in that country on October 15, 1842. He is the son of Joseph and Mary Oswald, who lived and died in Germany. They were the parents of two children, Carl and Simon. Simon Oswald was reared in a German village and attended school until he reached the age of fourteen years, at which time he learned the baker's trade, which he followed until his emigration to the United States, in 1869. He arrived in New York with a capital of two dollars, remaining there but a short time and then removing to the town of Troy, New York, where he was employed on the Erie canal for one month. He finally engaged in agriculture, being employed by the month until 1871. He then removed

to Albany, where he engaged in the bakery business, but again took up agriculture as a vocation and has since remained in that business.

Simon Oswald was married to Catherine Sheets, who came to America when a young woman, and they have been the parents of eleven children, of whom eight are living at the present time: Joseph, Charley, Nellie, wife of Fred VanAllen; George, Nettie, Gus, Emma and Albert. Of whom Joseph, George, Emma, Gus and Albert are at home. The mother of these children was born in Germany and removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, with her husband in 1885, locating near Greenville. Simon Oswald is a Republican in his political views. His present farm consists of two hundred and twenty acres and is located near the town of Sidney, Michigan.

JOHN C. FULTS.

John C. Fults, successful farmer and pioneer citizen of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Herkimer county, New York, on July 11, 1830, the son of William and Mariah (McKoon) Fults, natives of New York state, the former of German and the latter of Scotch descent.

William Fults died shortly after his marriage, following which his widow, Mariah, and her only child, John C., came to Michigan, in 1835, and located at Romeo, Macomb county, later moving to St. Clair county, where Mariah Fults was married to Benjamin Thornton, a union to which were born two daughters, Hulda and Esther, both of whom and the mother are deceased.

John C. Fults lived with his mother until seven years of age, when he became a part of the household of William Garris, a farmer of Macomb county, with whom John C. lived until about ten years of age, it being during that time that he received his education in the common schools of Macomb county. About the year 1840 John C. Fults went to live with the Sutherland family, of Macomb county, making his home with these people for about five years, after which he started to make his own way in the world, working at different places in various lines of activity, chiefly farming, until a few years later, when he bought forty acres of land in Macomb county, a place where he engaged in general farming a short time and then moved to St. Clair county, where he lived for several years. During the year 1879 John C. Fults came to Montcalm county and bought one hundred and forty-six acres of land in Sidney township, on the south side of Lake

Dickerson, a place which prior to the coming of Mr. Fults was without settlement, the place being occupied solely by a mill. On his farm in Sidney township Mr. Fults has placed extensive improvements and now lives there as a successful farmer.

On November 13, 1850, John C. Fults was married to Catherine Youngs, who was born in Wayne county, New York state, on June 30, 1835, the daughter of Harry Youngs and wife. To the marriage of John C. and Catherine Fults were born nine children, seven of whom are now living: Cornelia, the wife of Josiah Decker, of Douglass township, Montcalm county; Mariah, who is the wife of John Trumbull, of Pinconning, Michigan; Abiar, the wife of John Coleman, who lives at Stanton; Ira, who is deceased; Annie, the widow of John Adams, of Stanton; Andrew, who lives on the home place; Lincoln, who died in infancy; Johnson, who lives at McBride, and Eva Grace, who is the wife of Seth Pickell, of Day township. Catherine, the wife of John C. Fults, died on March 26, 1915, she being eighty years of age at that time. John C. Fults, as was his wife, is a devout member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church, being active in the work and worship of this denomination.

John C. Fults has been a life-long Republican, having cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, and since that time has been an active and interested worker in the affairs of the Republican party. Mr. Fults is one of the pioneer citizens of Sidney township and Montcalm county, he having lived a long and useful life to his community.

NIELS JENSEN.

Among the well and favorably known farmers and stock raisers of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Niels Jensen, who was born on the south side of the Island of Sjælland, Denmark, on March 20, 1848, the son of Jens and Carrie (Larsen) Nielsen, who spent their entire lives in Denmark, the latter dying in 1854. Jens and Carrie Nielsen were the parents of six children: Annie; Christiana, the wife of Jens Hansen, who lives in Denmark; Carrie, the wife of Nels Hansen, of Greenville, Montcalm county; Mary, the widow of Chris Hansen, living in Fairplain township; Niels, of this sketch, and Peter, who is a farmer of Sidney township.

Niels Jensen was educated in the public schools of his native land and

lived in Denmark until 1872, when, being twenty-four years of age, he came to America with his sister, Mary, and her husband, and located at Gowen, Montcalm county, Michigan, where Mr. Jensen lived for two years, working in the mills of the locality. Later, Niels Jensen went to the state of Wisconsin, worked one summer as a sailor and then returned to Montcalm county, where he was engaged in general work at a number of places until 1878, when he purchased sixty acres of land in section 17, Sidney township, where he now lives and is successfully engaged in general farming and in the raising of live stock.

On October 20, 1880, Niels Jensen was married to Mary Hansen, a daughter of Rasmus Hansen and wife, after which they spent one year on a farm near Greenville, and then came to the farm of Mr. Jensen in Sidney township. To the marriage of Niels and Mary Jensen have been born two daughters: Carrie Christina, the wife of John Mussen, a farmer of Sidney township, and Annie Amelia, who lives at home. Mr. Jensen and his family are active members of the Danish Lutheran church.

In politics, Niels Jensen is an ardent Republican, and although he has taken no especial part in the public or official life of the community he is known as a citizen who has the interests of the township and county in consideration and as one who is ready at all times to do his part in the promotion of the general welfare of the locality.

RALPH W. MOULTON.

Among the well-known citizens of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Ralph W. Moulton, produce dealer, who was born on February 23, 1866, in Ada township, Kent county, Michigan, the son of Marcus C. and Harriett (Smith) Moulton.

Marcus C. Moulton was born in Monroe county, New York, and lived there until he was a young man, when he moved to Huron county, Michigan, and bought a farm which he cultivated for about ten years, after which he disposed of his land and moved to Kent county and farmed sixty acres of land in Ada township, until 1872, when the family came to Howard City, Montcalm county. In Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, Marcus C. Moulton purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he improved and on which he lived for the remainder of his days. Marcus C. and Harriett Moulton were the parents of nine children, Charles H., Priscilla, Nora, Lewis (deceased), Ralph W., Agnes, Mable, Mattie and Hattie (deceased).

Ralph W. Moulton received his education in the public schools of Coral, Montcalm county, attending classes until he was eighteen years of age, when he took up work in the woods of the county during the winter and worked on the farms of the community in the summer. When twenty-two years of age, Ralph W. Moulton became a farmer on the home place, living there for five years, after which he bought fifty acres of land in Winfield township, Montcalm county, and cultivated this place as a general farmer for eight years. After this time, Mr. Moulton moved to Howard City, where he was employed for fourteen years and then he secured his present place of business and now is successfully engaged in the buying and selling of produce.

On September 5, 1891, Ralph W. Moulton was married to Myrtle Cole, a daughter of Albert and Harriet (Wagner) Cole. To the marriage of Ralph W. and Myrtle Moulton have been born five children: Hattie, who is the wife of P. S. Woodhall, of Howard City; Lula, Fred, Richard and Margaret, who live at home, and Nora, who is deceased.

Ralph W. Moulton is a well-known member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and is a man who is prominent in the affairs of the Republican party in his community. Mr. Moulton is one of the appreciated citizens of Howard City and Montcalm county, his unselfish interest and active efforts for the betterment of general conditions in the township and county having given him a place among the foremost men of the community.

FRANK P. CHURCH.

Frank P. Church, farmer and supervisor of Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is one of the active, progressive men who have taken a keen interest in the development of their community, devoting time and ability to all questions of vital import. His present home is the place of his birth, which event occurred on December 15, 1873. Frank P. Church is the son of Lucius L. and Amelia L. (Spence) Church, who were natives of Kent county, Michigan, and New York state, respectively. Lucius L. Church was born on April 22, 1843, and was the son of Rix R. and Adelia A. (Brown) Church. Lucius L. Church was bereaved of his father at the age of seven years and was soon compelled to assume the grave burdens of life. Until the beginning of the Civil War he was occupied at various kinds of work, but at that time enlisted in the services of his country, being mustered into Company H, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in

the First Brigade of the Third Division on August 9, 1862. He was afterward transferred to the Fourteenth Army Corps, in the Third Brigade of the First Division, where he served as a private for some time, but was later promoted to the rank of corporal. Among the battles in which he engaged the names of those following are the most notable: Perrysville, La Vergne, Stewart's Creek, Stone's River, Tullahoma, Elk River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Brown's Ferry, Missouri Ridge, Savannah, Averasborough and Bentonville. On June 22, 1865, he received his discharge at Detroit, Michigan.

After the close of the Civil War, Lucius L. Church located in Montcalm county, Michigan, the date of his arrival being April 20, 1868. On February 13, 1866, he was united in marriage to Amelia L. Spence, daughter of William and Hannah (Newton) Spence, and to them have been born these children: Anna E., born on August 22, 1868; Lucy L., August 7, 1870; Frank P., December 15, 1873; Mandana, July 18, 1880, all of whom are living. Amelia L. Spence was born on August 10, 1840, in Livingston county, New York. Lucius L. Church was exceedingly popular as a man and as a citizen and was elected to fill many positions of honor and trust, namely: Justice of the peace, which office he held for twelve years; highway commissioner for one year; treasurer for a period of two years; supervisor for eleven years, and also served as a member of the state Legislature for two terms, under the Republican regime. In his fraternal relations he was a member of the Free and Accepted Order of Masons and of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and a staunch Republican.

Frank P. Church was reared on the home place and received his education in the local public schools, remaining at home until the age of twenty-three years. On November 3, 1896, he was united in marriage to Ruby Cole, daughter of Albert and Hattie (Wagner) Cole, and they are the parents of three children: Katherine A., born on May 3, 1898, a graduate of the local high school and now a student in the state normal; Harold F., July 7, 1901, is a student in the local high school, and Grace L., May 31, 1903, who is also a student in the high school of Howard City, Michigan. Ruby Cole was born on May 7, 1873, in New York state, and removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, with her parents when she was a child of four years.

Frank P. Church has been active in local politics, rendering valuable service to the Republican party of which he is a member. He served as justice of the peace for two terms and as supervisor since 1912. He was also a candidate for the office of register of deeds of Montcalm county, Mich-

igan, in 1914, but was defeated. Fraternally, he is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, of Howard City, Michigan. Frank P. Church is an active member of the Howard City Grange and has been identified with the local school board for a great many years. The farm on which he lives consists of one hundred and twenty acres of land, located two and one-half miles east of Howard City, and is one of the well managed, productive farms of this locality.

WILLIAM NOAH.

William Noah has the distinction of having been a schoolmate of James A. Garfield, the martyred President. William Noah also fought for the preservation of the Union during the Civil War, losing his right arm in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, on March 19, 1865. He was a private in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and now draws a pension of fifty-five dollars per month. He is the son of Joshua V. and Ruth (Fox-Daniel) Noah, and his birth occurred on August 14, 1831, in Nelson township, Portage county, Ohio. Joshua V. Noah was also born on the same place as his son and was the son of John Noah and wife, both natives of Germany, who first located in New York state, thence removing to Portage county, Ohio, where they died. They were the parents of eight children. Joshua V. Noah was married in Lake county, Ohio, and removed to Michigan in 1855, where he remained until his death. He was the father of eleven children, five of whom are living: William, Joshua, Orange, John and Emily, who is the wife of a Mr. Waters. Ruth (Fox-Daniel) Noah was the mother of five children by her first marriage.

William Noah received his education in the district schools of his native county, upon the completion of which he followed the trade of carpenter. In 1853 he was married to Hannah Goble and of this union nine children were born. She died in 1881 and he was then married to Roby (Burlingame) Leonard. Four children born of his first union are now living: George E., a farmer living in Ohio; Asher R., a farmer living in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan; Ruth, wife of Alonzo Crane, of Detroit, Michigan, and Rosa, of Stanton, Michigan.

William Noah is a member of the Congregational church and a liberal supporter of same. He is also acting deacon of this denomination in the



WILLIAM NOAH.

town of Sidney, Michigan. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party, though he was a Democrat before the Civil War. He is a member of Stanton Post No. 37, Grand Army of the Republic. He has held all of the township offices and always been very active in all public questions. He was one of the first settlers of this county, locating here in 1856, and has done much for the progress of his community. His farm consists of fifteen acres and is well managed. In the organization of the township in 1858 he was elected the first township clerk. At that time there were but twenty-two voters in the township.

MARTIN ALLEN GRILL.

Martin Allen Grill is the owner and efficient manager of "Pleasant View Farm," located one and one-half miles west and one-half mile south of the town of Stanton, Michigan. He was born on November 10, 1867, in Summit county, Ohio, and is the son of Martin and Rachel (Ludwick) Grill. Martin Grill, Sr., was a native of Pennsylvania and his wife was a native of Ohio, in which state she was married. They removed to Michigan in 1868, locating in Clinton county, where they remained for one year, later removing to a farm which they had purchased in Gratiot county. Later they effected a residence in Ionia county, where his death occurred in 1911. The widow is still living. They were the parents of these children: Mary, wife of Albert Jones; Amanda, wife of Ansell Goodell; Henry, now living in Clinton county, Michigan; Emma, wife of Fred Trilliger, of Ionia county, Michigan; Martin A.; Charles, of Ionia county, Michigan, and Clara, wife of John Wright, of Clinton county, Michigan.

Martin Allen Grill was reared on the home farm and received his education in the district schools of the township, in Gratiot county, Michigan. He remained under the parental roof until he reached the age of twenty-seven years, being paid for his services after he had reached his majority.

On March 7, 1894, Martin Allen Grill was married to Bertha A. Slanker, and of this union two children have been born: Hazel L., born on December 3, 1897, and Mabel M., March 7, 1901. Both are students in the school at Stanton, Michigan.

Bertha A. Slanker was born on January 3, 1876, in Gratiot county, Michigan, and was educated in the schools of that county, removing to Montcalm county, Michigan, in the fall of 1894, where her husband engaged in

saw-mill work. He purchased the present farm in 1904. He has two hundred and forty acres, one hundred and sixty of which are under cultivation. The family are members of the Church of God, in which church Martin Allen Grill serves as trustee. He is also a teacher in the Sunday school, as are also his wife and daughter.

Bertha A. (Slanker) Grill is the daughter of S. S. and Bell (Percell) Slanker, natives of Summit county, Ohio, and Genesee county, Michigan, respectively. They are now residing in Stanton, Michigan, and are members of the Congregational church of that town. S. S. Purcell is a teacher and deacon of that denomination. The names of their children follow: Bertha A., Theresa J., wife of Ed Goodwin, of Ionia, Michigan; Gertrude H., wife of Jay Kinsman; J. Lee, of Stanton, Michigan, and Raymond, who is living in Detroit, Michigan.

In politics, Martin Allen Grill is an independent voter, supporting the best men on the ticket regardless of party.

DAVID L. WATERS.

David L. Waters has been identified with the agricultural interests of this township for many years, and in all respects has held the high regard of his fellow citizens. He was born on January 8, 1850, in Grand Rapids, Kent county, Michigan, and is the son of Levi and Adeline (Abel) Waters, natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively. Adeline (Abel) Waters removed to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when a young girl and was reared and educated in that place. Levi Waters also removed to Grand Rapids when young, engaging in the tanner's trade, which he followed until his marriage. After his wedding he removed to Kent county, Michigan, where he operated a saw-mill for his brother, John Waters, for nine years. He then purchased forty acres of land in Montcalm county, on which he remained until his death on April 24, 1913. His widow still survives. They were the parents of three children, David L., Louise and Frances A. Louise died in infancy and Frances is the wife of J. L. Cook and lives with her mother.

David L. Waters was educated in the schools of Kent county, Michigan, being an attendant until his sixteenth year. Later he was a student in the schools of this county for two years. He was a resident of Lowell, Michigan, and for a period of two years worked in the lumber woods and saw-mills of Montcalm county.

On February, 1871, David L. Waters was married to Mary A. Wilder and to this union two daughters were born, Addie A. and Jennie L. Addie A. is the wife of Henry Linderman, while Jennie L. is the wife of J. L. Schinnerhorn. After the death of his first wife, David L. Waters married Mrs. Emily A. Goodell, the wedding being solemnized on March 12, 1884. Emily A. Goodell was born in Summit county, Ohio, on July 6, 1840, and came to this county where her education was received. She has been married three times, having two children by her first union, Sylvia, widow of W. H. Kilpatrick, and George M., deceased. By her union with James A. Goodell two children were born, Ida A., wife of E. C. Lowery, of Stanton, Michigan, and James A., a farmer in Sidney township. David Waters and his wife are members of the Congregational church and active in its support. He is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and in political matters is a member of the Republican party. His well-improved, well-regulated farm is located three miles west and one mile south of Stanton, Michigan, and consists of forty acres called "Lakeside Farm."

JOHN A. NELSON.

Among the younger generation of agriculturists who are active in local affairs as well as in their chosen profession, none are more worthy the respect of their fellow citizens than is John A. Nelson, of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He was born on January 31, 1880, in Penn Yan, Yates county, New York, and is the son of Charles and Hanna (Grimbeck) Nelson, both natives of Sweden. They were the parents of two children, Oscar E. and John A. Oscar E. is a farmer and lives in Sidney township. John A. Nelson was but three years of age at the time of his immigration to Michigan, in company with his parents who located in this locality. He received his education in the common schools of this township and in the Greenville Business College, after which he became an employee of the Buick Automobile Company in their plant at Flint, Michigan, remaining with them for two years. He had previously purchased a farm and in 1910 took possession of same.

On March 17, 1913, John A. Nelson was united in marriage to Mabel C. Sampson and they are the parents of one child, Dale E., who was born on February 14, 1915. Mabel C. (Sampson) Nelson was born in 1883, in McBride, Montcalm county, Michigan. She received her education in the

public schools of Greenville, Michigan, graduating from the high school of that place and from the state normal in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. She followed the vocation of teacher both in her native state and in the state of Washington, for two periods of three years each.

John A. Nelson and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Politically, John A. Nelson is affiliated with the Republican party. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, at Stanton. In an agricultural way he is devoting his time to the raising of high-grade potatoes in which he specializes. His farm is well improved and has a fine bungalow which was built in the summer of 1913. A large barn was built in 1912. This place is called "Pleasant View Farm" and well deserves the name.

JOHN A. HEROLD.

Among the prominent business men and leading citizens of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, is John A. Herold, who was born near Bucyrus, Crawford county, Ohio, on September 25, 1857, the son of Ernest and Susanna (Bertsch) Herold, the former born at Rudelstadt, near Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, the latter in the state of Pennsylvania.

Ernest Herold came to America when a young man and located in Crawford county, Ohio, where he followed his trade as a shoemaker for some time and then was married to Susanna Bertsch, who immigrated to Ohio with her parents, they being of German descent. Shortly following his marriage, Ernest Herold and his family came to Michigan and located at Holland, Ottawa county, where the elder Herold followed his trade and manufactured and sold boots and shoes for the remainder of his days. Ernest and Susanna Herold were the parents of the following children: Helen and Mary, of Woburn, Massachusetts; John A., of Howard City; Alonzo, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Mary, who is the widow of George Ballard, of Woburn, Massachusetts; Christina, the wife of John Benjamin, she now being deceased as is her twin sister, who died in infancy, and Kate, the wife of George Hunt, of Holland, Michigan.

John A. Herold secured a limited education in the schools of Ottawa county, after which he lived at home until thirteen years of age and then went to Grand Rapids, where he became an employee of a shoe factory, remaining with that company for ten years. About 1883 Mr. Herold opened a shoe store at Grand Rapids, a business which he conducted for two years

and then sold to his brother, after which he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he followed his trade as a shoemaker, for about two and one-half years. Subsequently, Mr. Herold came to Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, and started a store, dealing in shoes, later adding stocks of furniture and general merchandise, lines which he has handled most successfully during twenty-eight years of his career as a merchant of Howard City.

On July 14, 1889, John A. Herold was married to Sadie Bennett, who was a daughter of Mrs. Nancy Bennett, of Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick, Canada. Mr. Herold and his wife are leading members of the Congregational church, of Howard City, he now being the treasurer of this church. Mr. Herold was a member of the building committee and was one of the leading factors in the movement for the erection of the new church building for this denomination, at Howard City, in 1893.

In politics, John A. Herold is a Republican, having been prominent in the efforts of this party for many years. Mr. Herold has occupied various offices in Howard City and is a man who has done no little in the progress and advancement of the interests of this community.

MRS. D. H. BAIRD.

Mrs. D. H. Baird, one of the well-known women and the widow of D. H. Baird, who was one of the highly respected citizens of Winfield township, this county, was born in New York state, on September 3, 1853, a daughter of James and B. (Clark) Snyder, natives of New York state, where they grew to maturity, were married and where they lived until the death of James Snyder, on October 9, 1864.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. James Snyder came to Michigan, where she made her home until her death at Morley, Mecosta county, in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. James Snyder were the parents of the following children: Spencer, of Manton, Michigan; Mrs. D. H. Baird, and Frank, a railroad man of Missouri. One child is deceased.

Mrs. D. H. Baird received her education in the schools of New York state, after which she lived on the farm of her parents, until September 24, 1874, when she was married, in New York state, to D. H. Baird. Shortly following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Baird came to Michigan, and located on a farm in Eureka township, Montcalm county, near Greenville, a place which was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Baird for two years, after which they,

in 1876, moved to a farm of eighty acres which Mr. Baird purchased in Winfield township, where Mrs. Baird now makes her home, on a well-improved and highly cultivated farm.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Baird were the parents of the following children: Merwin, Ernest and Irving, who live in Ohio; Mabel, the wife of N. F. Croff, an implement dealer of Morley, Michigan; Harvey, a dealer in Morley, Michigan; Edna, the wife of Albert Kohler, a farmer of Winfield township, and Albert and Harrison, who cultivate the home farm.

J. E. McCLOSKEY.

J. E. McCloskey has been identified with the educational interests of Montcalm county, Michigan, for many years and has fulfilled the trust with efficiency and fervor. His present position as superintendent of the Howard City schools is but the culmination of past experience and the prelude to future successes. He was born on May 18, 1861, in Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the son of Barney and Charlotte (Skippey) McCloskey, natives of northern Ireland and Oakland county, Michigan, respectively. Barney McCloskey emigrated to the United States when he was twenty-one years of age, locating in the state of Vermont but later removing to Oakland county, Michigan, where his marriage took place. Soon after their union they moved to Crystal township of this county and remained here until death. Barney McCloskey followed farming and became prominent in local politics and held many township offices. He was also active in church affairs and the father of seven children.

J. E. McCloskey spent his boyhood days in Crystal township, where he attended the district schools, subsequently graduating from the Ionia high school, of Ionia, Michigan. He then became a student in the Michigan State Normal School, of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, from which institution he graduated and almost immediately took up educational duties at Stanton, Michigan. He taught school in the various districts of Montcalm county, and was elected superintendent of schools in Sheridan, Michigan, continuing in that capacity for two years. He was then elected secretary of the county board of examiners, serving for one term, following which he was elected first county school commissioner of Montcalm county, Michigan, serving in this capacity for four years. For eleven years, following his retirement from office, he served in the capacity of superintendent of schools of Stanton, Michigan, and was

then, in 1904, elected to his present office. He has always been a Republican in his political affiliations and very active in local politics.

On August 12, 1887, J. E. McCloskey was united in marriage to Jessie I. Collins, of Carson City, Michigan, and a teacher in the schools of the county, and to them have been born these children: Grace, deceased; Roger, a graduate of the Howard City high school and a teacher in the school at Amble, Montcalm county, Michigan; Ruth, also a graduate of the Howard City high school and now a student in the Michigan State Normal College, of Ypsilanti, Michigan; Esther, also a graduate of the same high school and a student of the same college; Helen, a student of the local high school, and Margaret, who is a student in the grades. In religious matters the family are affiliated with the Congregational church.

ALBERT O'DONALD.

Albert O'Donald, a grain and produce dealer of Howard City and the proprietor of the Howard City elevator, was born in Washington county, New York, June 2, 1853, the son of John and Eliza J. (Nelson) O'Donald, the former of whom was born in Ireland and the latter in Washington county, New York. John O'Donald came to the United States at the age of eight years, when he was thrown on his own responsibilities and worked at various occupations. He finally took up farming and was very prosperous, owning several large tracts of land at the time of his death. To John and Eliza J. O'Donald were born seven children, three of whom are living: Richard H., whose life history is given elsewhere in this volume; Mary J., the wife of T. D. Southworth, of Washington county, New York, and Albert, the subject of this sketch.

Albert O'Donald was reared on a farm in Washington county, New York, where he attended the public schools and received a good common-school education. He remained at home until he was seventeen years of age, when he came to Howard City and made his home with his brother, Richard H., for some time. For sixteen years he was employed by his brother and was very successful with him, but, preferring to go into business for himself, he engaged in the grain and produce business and has prospered from the beginning. He now does a large business in this line and has one of the leading grain and produce concerns in Montcalm county.

Mr. O'Donald was married on June 12, 1878, to Elizabeth Roberts, who

was born in Vermont, where they were married. To them has been born one daughter, Elizabeth M., born on March 8, 1893. She was graduated from the Howard City high school, later attending the Alma University, and is now the wife of H. V. Wilcox, of Detroit, Michigan, who is the sporting editor of the *Detroit Times*.

Fraternally, Mr. O'Donald is a member of Howard City Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; Greenville Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; is a thirty-second degree Mason and also a member of the Shrine at Grand Rapids. Besides his Masonic relations, Mr. O'Donald is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Politically, he is a Republican, but has never held a public office.

WILLIAM A. BROWN.

William A. Brown, prosperous farmer and owner of eighty acres of land, known as "Maple Drive Farm," located near Howard City, in Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Barry township, Barry county, Michigan, on March 8, 1866, a son of J. A. and Agnes (Louden) Brown, natives of Vermont and of Rochester, New York respectively.

When a young man, J. A. Brown came to Michigan and located in Barry county, where, after some years, he was married to Agnes Louden, she having come to Barry county, with her parents, at an early age. Following his marriage, J. A. Brown moved to Newaygo county, where he lived for the remainder of his days and where his widow now lives. J. A. and Agnes Brown were the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living: Mary, the wife of Cornelius Tack, of Pierson, Michigan; William A.; Edward L., a farmer of Newaygo county, this state; Florence, the wife of B. F. Wells, a farmer of Newaygo county, and Guy, a farmer of the same county.

William A. Brown was reared on the home farm and was educated in the schools of Barry county, Michigan, after which he worked with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he took up work in the woods of Newaygo county, to which locality his parents had moved, and where William A. Brown was employed for some time, following his duties as a lumberman in the winter and as a farmer in the summer. During the month of October, 1905, Mr. Brown came to Montcalm county and located near Howard City, in Winfield township, where he secured a farm which is

now known as "Maple Drive Farm," a desirable and well-improved place of eighty acres. William A. Brown does not live on his farm now, but for some years has made his home at Howard City, where he is successfully engaged in the management of his livery and sale business.

During the year 1889, William A. Brown was married to Ella Terwilliger, who was born in Newaygo county, Michigan, on March 14, 1870, and received her education in the common schools and at the Fremont high school, after which she was a school teacher for three years. To the marriage of William A. and Ella Brown have been born two children: Clayton H., who married Lola Trudell, and Mary Pearl, who, after the completion of her education, was married to Arthur R. Woods, living near Grand Rapids, Michigan.

William A. Brown is a prominent member of the Howard City Grange and is a man who takes an active and influential part in the agricultural affairs of Reynolds township and Montcalm county. In politics, Mr. Brown is a Republican, being an interested worker in and a supporter of the principles of this party.

JOHN C. COLLINS.

John C. Collins, a real estate, loan and insurance dealer of Howard City, was born in Ionia county, Michigan, June 10, 1856, the son of John and Mary (Stack) Collins, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts and the latter in New York state. John Collins moved with his parents from Massachusetts to Washtenaw county, Michigan, when quite small and there was reared to manhood. After living for a number of years in Washtenaw county, he removed to Ionia county and purchased some school land, which he cleared and on which he put out a crop of wheat. He then returned to Washtenaw county for his wife and, after loading all of their belongings on an ox-cart, they started for their new home in Ionia county. Upon their arrival, they immediately set to work and erected a shanty and went to house-keeping. John Collins lived on this farm until late in life, when he and his wife moved to Howard City, where they died, he in 1905 and she in 1905. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and active supporters of this denomination. In politics, he was a Republican and always took an active part in all political affairs, having served as supervisor of Orleans township and as justice of the peace, and always having taken a deep interest in educational affairs. John and Mary (Stack) Collins were the parents of

five children, Mary, the wife of Charles Bras, of Lansing, Michigan; John C., the subject of this sketch; James A., of Otsego, Michigan; Agnes, the wife of Ira H. Clark, of Lansing, Michigan, and William H., a resident of Howard City.

John C. Collins was reared on a farm in Ionia county and received his education in the public schools, which he attended in the winter, working on the farm in the summer. In 1874 he came to Howard City and began clerking in a dry goods and clothing store at a small salary, remaining there until the fall of 1876, when he went to Morley, Michigan, and worked for eight months in a dry goods and shoe store. From Morley he went to Big Rapids, where he stayed six months and then returned to Howard City and was married. After his marriage, he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with a Mr. Bras under the firm name of Bras & Collins, which arrangement continued until 1884, when they were burned out. In the same year, Mr. Collins erected a building on Main street and conducted a mercantile store alone for a few years, when he took his brother, J. A., into the partnership and later sold his interest to his brother, W. H. He then purchased a farm in Pierson township and operated it for a number of years, when he sold it. Since about 1896 he has been engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business.

On August 3, 1878, John C. Collins was married to Christena J. Robbie, who was born in Canada, February 21, 1860, the daughter of William and Helen (Stevens) Robbie. Mr. and Mrs. Robbie were both natives of Scotland, she born in 1831 and he in 1829, and were married one year after emigrating from that country to Canada. Mrs. Collins came with her parents from Canada to Michigan when she was eight years of age and received her education in the public schools of Howard City. To Mr. and Mrs. Collins have been born three daughters: Marjorie, a graduate of the Howard City high school and the widow of G. A. Collins; Iva, a graduate of the high school and the wife of Charles L. Huff, and Hazel, also a graduate of the high school and the wife of J. W. Pemberton. Mr. and Mrs. Collins also have two grandchildren.

Fraternally, Mr. Collins is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master, and also a member of Greenville Chapter, Royal Arch Masons. He and Mrs. Collins are members of Ivanhoe Chapter No. 128, Order of the Eastern Star, in which she has served in an official capacity and he as worthy patron. In politics, Mr. Collins is a Republican and has served as a member of and president

of the village council of Howard City, and a member of the board of education, serving as president of same for a time. He has been secretary of the board of county superintendents of the poor for ten years, and a member of the board for sixteen years.

J. CLAUDE YODAN.

A prominent attorney and well-known citizen of Howard City is J. Claude Youdan, who was born in Essex township, Clinton county, Michigan, October 11, 1877, the son of James E. and Adelaide (Beach) Youdan, both natives of Clinton county. James E. Youdan was educated in the public schools of Clinton county and later served with an engineering corps, becoming very proficient in that occupation. He was married in Clinton county and came with his family to Montcalm county in 1879, locating in the village of Crystal, where he engaged in the mercantile and hardware business. He followed this line of work until he was elected to the office of county surveyor, in which he had formerly served as a deputy, and continued in that office until his death. James E. Youdan was a very prominent Mason during his life and was one of the best informed members of that fraternity in Montcalm county, having served as master of his local lodge for thirteen years. To James E. and Adelaide (Beach) Youdan were born two children, E. Duff and J. Claude, the subject of this sketch. E. Duff was an apprentice under his father, learning the surveyor's trade, and, upon the death of his father, was appointed to fill the office of county surveyor, serving two and one-half terms. He is unmarried and lives at Crystal, where he is engaged in civil engineering, also surveying at Greenville and at other towns in the county.

J. Claude Youdan, who was reared in the village of Crystal, was educated in the public schools of that place and was graduated from the Maple Rapids high school with the class of 1897, having taught school before and after his graduation. In 1898 he entered Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, where he pursued the scientific and law courses and was graduated in 1900 with the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws. After his graduation from college, Mr. Youdan was admitted to the Circuit Court of the United States and, after serving for a time in this court, returned home, where he remained for two years, after which he went to Missouri and practiced for one year. He then came back to Crystal

and was deputy surveyor of Montcalm county for two years, at the same time practicing law at Crystal, but, in 1906, moved to Howard City, where he has practiced ever since. He was elected prosecutor of Montcalm county in 1913 and served in this capacity during the years 1913 and 1914.

In 1902 J. Claude Youdan was married to Blanche Baun, of Edgar county, Illinois. She is a graduate of the normal course of Valparaiso University and, before her marriage, was a teacher in the public schools. To this union has been born one son, James Weaver, who was born on August 8, 1912.

Like his father, Mr. Youdan is very prominent in Masonic circles in this county, being a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master, and is also a past master of Mt. Gilead Lodge No. 285, at Crystal. When Mr. Youdan was initiated into the blue lodge his master mason's degree was conferred upon him by his father. He is also a member of Stanton Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; a member of the thirty-second degree at Grand Rapids, and a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In politics, Mr. Youdan is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in all political affairs, having held various public offices. Mr. Youdan is a progressive, public-spirited citizen and takes a keen interest in all public measures which are for the advancement of his city, county or state.

ORLANDO J. KNAPP.

Orlando J. Knapp, retired merchant, ex-official, and a man prominent in public and fraternal life of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Pierrepont township, St. Lawrence county, New York, on January 3, 1838, a son of Isaac P. and Margaret (Chase) Knapp, natives of New York state, in which commonwealth the elder Knapp spent his entire life as a farmer. Isaac P. and Margaret Knapp were the parents of eight children, the subject of this sketch being the only one now living.

Orlando J. Knapp received his education in the district schools of New York state, where he attended classes until he was eighteen years of age, and then, one year later, he moved to the state of Indiana and located in Steuben county, a place which was the home of Mr. Knapp until 1862, when he enlisted in Company B, Twelfth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which command Orlando J. Knapp served, as a part of the

armies of Generals Grant and Sherman, until the end of the war, during his period of service taking part in many engagements, among which was a part in the siege of Vicksburg.

Following his release from military service, at the close of the war, Orlando J. Knapp returned to New York state, where he remained until 1871, and then came to Michigan, locating at Howard City, Montcalm county, where he engaged in the manufacture of wooden eave troughs, for some time and then later, after having recovered from the effects of failing health, Mr. Knapp engaged in the grocery and provision business, shortly afterward erecting the business block which now bears his name in Howard City. After some years as a successful business man, Mr. Knapp retired from active business pursuits and now lives a quiet life at his home in Howard City, in which he has an honored and esteemed place. In addition to his business life at Howard City, Mr. Knapp, during his active days, acquired a farm of one hundred and ten acres, in Montcalm county, a place which is among the most desirable farms of the community.

Orlando J. Knapp was married to Armina C. Edmunds, of Steuben county, Indiana, and to this marriage were born two children, one daughter, who is deceased, and James H. Knapp, who, after the death of his mother, in 1862, was cared for by a family of Steuben county, Indiana, during the time when his father was serving as a soldier of the Civil War. Later, James H. Knapp went to Michigan, and joined his father at Howard City, afterward securing a farm in Winfield township, Montcalm county, where he now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

Orlando J. Knapp has been conspicuously affiliated with the official life of Howard City, and Reynolds township, at various times, from January 20, 1899, to the year 1903, having been postmaster of Howard City, and at an earlier time served Reynolds township as treasurer and also as highway commissioner. Mr. Knapp is an ardent Republican and has served as chairman of the Republican county central committee.

Fraternally, Orlando J. Knapp is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and is a charter member and past commander of the Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 252, at Howard City.

Mr. Knapp is one of the honored men and highly esteemed citizens of Howard City and Montcalm county, his unselfish devotion to the community and his efforts for the advancement of the locality and its various interests having won for him an enviable place in the roll of valued citizens of Montcalm county.

RICHARD BANNEN.

Richard Bannen was born on April 2, 1840, in County Wentworth, Ontario, Canada, and is the son of Edward and Catherine (Traner) Bannen. Edward Bannen was a native of County Meath, Ireland, removing to Canada some years later where he remained until death, following the vocation of farmer as his life's work. Catherine (Traner) Bannen was a native of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, and was the daughter of James Traner who immigrated from Ireland. They were the parents of eight children, nearly all of whom were educated in the home under the private instruction of the village school teacher, who was engaged to visit the home of evenings.

Richard Bannen was never fond of his books and, as the school was three miles distant, he received the advantage of home instruction and thereby gained a good knowledge of the principal things which every child should be taught. His initial training in work was received in the woods of Canada, and he was employed by one man for more than twenty years in this capacity, saving the sum of three thousand three hundred and thirty dollars during the time of service. He was engaged at ten dollars per month which was later increased to twelve dollars, and from this to twenty-six, after he had become a foreman. In 1876, he was appointed to serve as bailiff of the fourth division of the county court of Wentworth, Ontario, Canada, the office being similar to our office of sheriff, and he held this office for a period of fourteen years. Shortly after his arrival in Pine township, Montcalm county, in 1885, he purchased eighty acres of cut-over timber land from which the stumps and undergrowth had to be removed before cultivation could take place. Seventy acres of this property has been cleared and put under a high state of cultivation, and other land has been purchased for his sons. This land is devoted to general farming and stock raising and is well improved and managed. Politically, Richard Bannen is a stanch Democrat and, although he has never aspired to office since coming to the United States, he held many offices while a resident of Canada. He is a man of high principle and has adopted the Golden Rule as the best and truest policy, and above all things else, admires an honest man or woman.

On April 26, 1864, in Wentworth county, Ontario, Canada, Richard Bannen was united in marriage to Margaret Armstrong, daughter of John and Isabella Armstrong, and they became the parents of eleven children, whose names follow: Edward, married Flora Blasdal and they have nine children, Cintha, Albert, Marguerite, Ida, Elmer, Myrtle, Thelma, Elva and

Genevive; John, married Rose Packard and they are the parents of six children, Isabella, Gordon, Darwin, Eunice, William, and Lewis; Effie, married Albert Wales and they have five children, Mary, Ernest, Ida, Ruby and Maggie; William married Elsie Hale and they have one child, Truie; Maggie married Walter Whitlow and they have two children, Anna and Reno; Emma married Albert Roush and they have two children, Elma and Zora; Robert married Letha Patton and they are the parents of three children, George, Zelda and Lila. After his wife's death Robert Bannen married Charlotte Wray; Herbert married Myrtle Sissman and they have one child, Estella; Roy married Flossy McConnell and they have two children, Elden and Milford; Walter married Clara Nelson and they have three children, Helen, Otto and Floyd; Isabelle married George Roush who is now deceased.

This family have always been strict adherents of the Presbyterian faith and active in the support of this denomination. The mother of these children is a native of County Wentworth, Ontario, Canada, and is of Scotch descent, her parents having been natives of southern Scotland. Their home was on the line between Scotland and England.

SOLOMON B. NEWCOMB.

The name of Solomon B. Newcomb has long been an honored one in Montcalm county, Michigan, both in politics and civil relations, and his active life toward the betterment of the community will not soon be forgotten. His birth occurred on February 21, 1855, in Dix township, Schuyler county, New York, and he is the son of Waldo and Sarah (Boss) Newcomb. Waldo Newcomb was born in 1821 in Massachusetts, while his wife was a native of Rhode Island. They were married in New York state and located on a farm in Schuyler county, where they lived until her death. Following this the husband removed to Chenung county, New York, later removing to Corning, New York, where he remained until his death. He was the father of ten children, five by his first union and five by his second marriage. Seven children are now living, three by his first marriage: Solomon B., Susan, wife of Daniel Butts, of New York state, and Helen, widow of Josiah Alexander.

Solomon B. Newcomb was reared on the home farm until twelve years of age, at which time he began to support himself by working for his board during the winter months and going to school and working as a farm hand

in the summer. On April 3, 1873, he arrived in Pierson, Michigan, where he was employed as a telegraph operator for the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad. On November 29, 1873, he was promoted to fill the position as agent and operator, which position he held for twenty-seven years. He entered the political life of the county and was elected to serve as register of deeds for two terms. He was appointed as postmaster at Pierson, and his third appointment was dated September 3, 1905, and on August 22, 1914, he took the civil service examination and was permanently appointed to fill the position which he had so ably held on previous occasions.

Solomon B. Newcomb has, by his well-directed efforts, acquired some property, being the owner of five hundred acres of land in Newaygo county, Michigan, and two hundred acres in Pierson township, Montcalm county, Michigan, beside owning town realty. The postoffice building is owned by him. Beside his appointment as postmaster he was elected on the common council and assumed the office in February, 1877. Following this he was elected as village recorder and held the office for a period of seven years. He was then elected as justice of the peace, holding the office sixteen years, following which he served as township clerk for one year and supervisor for two years, subsequently being elected as register of deeds.

On August 22, 1876, Solomon B. Newcomb was wedded to Minerva Bradish, and to them were born six children, five of whom are now living, namely: Charles B., a graduate of the schools of Pierson and Howard City and of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, graduating from the latter institution as a dentist; George W., a graduate of the Pierson and Howard City high schools and now employed as a conductor on an interurban railway in British Columbia; Alice, a graduate of the Pierson and Howard City high schools and the wife of Otto Swanton; Ethel and Mary, both of whom are graduates of the local high school, the Stanton normal and the music and drawing department of the Ferris Institute, of Big Rapids, Michigan.

NOBLE W. MILLER, M. D.

Dr. Noble W. Miller, one of the leading professional men engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery, at Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 3, 1882, the son of William E. and Sophia (Kueker) Miller.

William E. Miller was born near Evansville, Indiana, the son of Jacob

Miller and wife, natives of Germany, who, following their marriage came to America, where Jacob Miller engaged in the duties of a minister of the Lutheran Evangelical church at various places, until his death, which occurred while he was a minister located at Dayton, Ohio. When twenty-five years of age, William E. Miller went to Chicago, where he was married and where he took up the study of medicine and surgery, graduating from the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 1887, after which he engaged in the duties of his profession, a line of activity in which he is yet engaged. Dr. William E. and Sophia Miller are the parents of four children, who grew to maturity, two of whom are now living: Maude, the wife of G. F. Lohman, of Chicago; Noble W., of this sketch; Jessie (deceased), who was the wife of Byron Wilson, of Chicago, and Arthur, who died when two years of age.

Noble W. Miller received his early education in the public schools of his community, after which he attended high school for about two and one-half years and then he became a student at St. John's Military Academy, at Delafield, Wisconsin, a school which Doctor Miller attended for three years. After the completion of his preparatory education Doctor Miller went to Chicago, Illinois, and entered the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which he graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1906. Then Dr. Miller went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he served as house physician at the Butterworth Hospital, during the years 1906-07. Later, Dr. Miller went to Cuba, Illinois, where he practiced his profession until 1912, and then came to Howard City, Montcalm county, at which place he now is successfully engaged in the duties of his profession.

Dr. Miller has taken an active part in the official life of Reynolds township and Howard City, now serving as health officer, a position which he has occupied in a most able and efficient manner for more than two years. In politics, Dr. Miller is a Republican.

On November 25, 1908, Dr. Miller was married to Mabel Butler, who was born in London, Ontario, Canada, of English and Scotch descent. To the marriage of Dr. and Mabel Miller have been born three children, Robert H., Ruth and Eulalie.

Fraternally, Dr. Miller is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons; he is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 260, Knights of Pythias, and as a progressive physician he is affiliated with the American Medical Association, the Michigan State Medical Society and the Montcalm County Medical Society.

GEORGE W. SIPLE.

George W. Siple, a farmer of Pierson township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Union City, Randolph county, Indiana, on October 31, 1869, and is the son of Emanuel and Mary (Marquis) Siple.

Emanuel Siple was born at Osborn, Ohio, situated between Dayton and Springfield, he being the son of Jacob and Anna (Brosey) Siple, who were born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and later moved to Clark county, Ohio. Jacob Siple, the grandfather of George W., was the first of his family to come west from Pennsylvania, having made the trip by canal and by walking and driving a mule the long distance to Clark county, where he located on a sixty-acre farm. Later he moved to Randolph county, Indiana, where he became possessed of many acres of land and where he spent the remaining days of his life.

Emanuel Siple, in early life, purchased nine acres of land, which he later sold for two thousand seven hundred dollars and then purchased eighty acres close by, after which he and his family went to Missouri in 1882. There he purchased three hundred and twenty acres, which he sold in 1897. Mr. Siple still resides in Missouri, his home being in Joplin.

George W. Siple remained at home till he was twenty-six years of age, when he married Dell Mitchell, the daughter of Ephraim G. and Sarah (Zumbrun) Mitchell. Ephraim G. Mitchell was born at Morristown, Belmont county, Ohio, and was the son of William C. and Mary J. Mitchell. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell had moved to Belmont county from Virginia, where the Mitchells had settled after coming from Ireland. Sarah Zumbrun, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Zumbrun, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, where her parents were among the earliest settlers of that section. Great-grandfather Marquis was a Dunkard minister and one of the early settlers of Randolph county.

George W. Siple and wife, soon after their marriage, went to Missouri, where they remained for some time, after which they returned to Indiana, and later came to Montcalm county, where they now reside on their farm of one hundred acres, which they have developed and improved. George W. Siple and wife are the parents of four children: Claudia, Ronald, Anna and Mildred, all of whom are in school.

Mr. Siple is a Republican in politics, and at the present time is serving his community as treasurer of the school district.

Mary (Marquis) Siple, the mother of George W., was born in Darke

county, Ohio, and moved with her father, George Marquis, to Missouri in 1859, where they made their home in Cedar county. There Mr. Marquis was the only man who cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln in the county. It was there that Mary Marquis distinguished herself and came near being shot as a spy. She escaped and returned to Ohio, where she met and married Emanuel Siple. The event that brought her prominence in Missouri was when she notified Lane's forces of the presence of Quantrall's gang and saved the former from destruction by swimming the river with a young horse. The conditions being such that her life was in danger, she returned to her former home in Ohio.

SOLOMON LISK.

Solomon Lisk, well-known retired merchant and leading citizen of Howard City, Montcalm county, was born in Coeymans, Albany county, New York, on September 15, 1828, a son of Israel and Elizabeth (Skinner) Lisk, natives of New York state, the former born in Cocksackie, now New Baltimore, Greene county, on February 10, 1792, a son of James and Margaret Lisk; the latter in Coeymans, Albany county, on May 5, 1791, a daughter of Solomon and Catherine Skinner. About the year 1830 James Lisk, with his family, moved to Lyons, Wayne county, New York, where they lived about one year and, in 1831, moved to Seneca county, New York, which was the home of James Lisk for the remainder of his days.

Solomon Lisk lived at home until he was eighteen years of age and then, with his sister and her husband, he went to Warren county, Illinois, where he remained a short time, after which he went to Burlington, Iowa, there engaging in different lines of work, among which was the driving of a stage-coach and an omnibus for about two months. Later, Solomon Lisk started back home, stopping at Chicago, for some time, then at Michigan City, Indiana, and afterwards at Battle Creek, Michigan, where he spent the winter. In the following spring he went to his home in Seneca county, New York, where he took his father's place and aided in the care of the family. After two years, during which time Mr. Lisk was married, he came to the state of Michigan, about 1851, and after a short time in Battle Creek, came to Hillsdale county, where he purchased a farm in Wheatland township, and where he lived as a general farmer until 1861. Having recovered from an attack of rheumatism, Mr. Lisk moved to Branch county,

Michigan, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land near Quincy, which he sold after a short time, and then went to Chicago, where for about one and one-half years he was employed in a commission house. From Chicago, Mr. Lisk went to Decatur, Michigan, for a short time and then went to Lawrence, Van Buren county, and took charge of a place for four years. Later he farmed for a short time and then went to Cass county, Michigan, and conducted a store at Cassopolis, until he came to Howard City, Montcalm county, and entered the grocery business. He retired from the grocery business and was an employee of a sash and blind factory, afterwards buying a wagon works, which he operated until he became a dealer in implements, in partnership with his son. Solomon Lisk continued as a merchant of Howard City until he retired from active business life.

On December 27, 1849, Solomon Lisk was married to Cordelia B. Humphrey, a daughter of George and Elizabeth Humphrey. To the marriage of Solomon and Cordelia Lisk have been born five children: Warren, a merchant of Howard City; Flora, who is the wife of Charles Larray; Jennie, the widow of George Hewitt; Agnes, who is the wife of Franz King, of Howard City, and Bessie, who is deceased.

As a public man, Mr. Lisk is well known, having served Howard City, and Reynolds township, as president of the village board, and as township supervisor for about seven years, and as township treasurer and justice of the peace. In politics, Mr. Lisk is a Republican. In fraternal circles, he is prominently affiliated, being a member of Howard City Lodge No. 326, Free and Accepted Masons, and for three or four years was master of his lodge. Mr. Lisk is also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, at Howard City.

JAMES BATY.

An admirable record as one of the progressive workers and representative farmers of Montcalm county, Michigan, has been made by James Baty, the subject of this sketch. He ranks high as a loyal citizen of the community in which he resides, and his success in his chosen field of endeavor has been due to his own individual effort.

James Baty is a native of Ontario, Canada, having been born near Blantford on August 28, 1855. He is the son of John and Jane (Scott) Baty, the former of whom came to this country from Cumberland, England, with his parents when a small child. The family settled in Canada,

where John Baty grew to manhood and where he met his wife, who was a native of the Dominion. The couple spent their married life in Canada, where they reared an interesting family, including the following children: Jane, the wife of Donald Tate, lived in Canada until her death; Richard is unmarried and resides in Canada; Robert also lives in Canada; John has become widely known in Pierson township, Montcalm county; Marian married Olive James, of Canada; James is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth became the wife of David Ross, of Canada; William also resides in Canada; May, the wife of Joseph Woodall, resides in Howard City; Isabella, the widow of Thomas McGannon, is living in Big Rapids; Thomas, the youngest son, lives in Winfield township, Montcalm county.

James Baty attended the public schools near his home in Canada and after reaching the age of manhood assisted his father with the work on the farm. He was thirty years of age when his marriage took place, and at that time began his independent career. He rented a small tract of land in Canada, where he continued the occupation as a farmer for three years. At the end of that time he came to Howard City, Montcalm county, where he was employed in a factory for two winters and where he worked as a carpenter during the summer months. Later he obtained employment on the farm of Bert Collins, where he worked for eight years. During that time he accumulated enough to purchase a farm of his own, which is the one on which he resides at the present time. The farm just mentioned consists of one hundred and forty acres of land and is located in section 17, Maple Valley township, on rural route No. 2, of Coral, Michigan. "Brookdale Farm" is the name given to the place, which is a model of attractiveness. The excellent condition in which the farm is now found is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Baty to make every piece of work he has undertaken show the result of first-class workmanship. The success now enjoyed by Mr. Baty is only the logical result of a life of well-directed endeavor and honest principles of living.

On July 19, 1885, James Baty was united in marriage to Bess Anna Ross, the daughter of William and Maggie (McClay) Ross, both of whom were born in Scotland, but who spent the greater part of their lives in Canada. Mrs. Baty has become the mother of three children, as follow: Maggie McClay, who died shortly after her marriage to William Armitage; James Alexander, who married Carrie Croft, and who resides on the home place, and William Ross, who married Clara Weaver, and who lives on his father's farm.

Though Mr. Baty has never cared to take an active part in political affairs, he has strong convictions regarding governmental policies and gives his allegiance to the Republican party. His religious faith is sincere and zealous, and he is a prominent and influential member of the Presbyterian church.

JAMES B. HASKINS.

James B. Haskins, postmaster of Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan, and editor and publisher of the *Howard City Record* since January 1, 1903, was born in Ensley township, Newaygo county, Michigan, on July 18, 1880, a son of James H. and Adella (Moore) Haskins, natives of Crawford county, Pennsylvania, and Oakland county, Michigan, respectively.

James H. Haskins, who was the son of James B. and Jemima (Daniels) Haskins, was born on September 26, 1842, and when a boy came to Illinois, where he lived until the death of his father and then, with his mother, returned to the state of Pennsylvania, where he received his education and lived until 1861. James H. Haskins enlisted for service in the Civil War, with the One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. After the close of the Civil War, Mr. Haskins returned to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, for about one year and then came to Montcalm county, Michigan, and settled at Moores, about five miles west of Howard City. In his new home, Mr. Haskins first worked in the woods, and then was engaged in the hauling of supplies to various lumber camps, a line of work which he followed for about two years and then he came to Ensley township, Newaygo county, in 1866, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, located in section 1, where he is now successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On April 7, 1869, James H. Haskins was married to Adella Moore, a daughter of Jacob J. and Hepsabeth (Gillett) Moore, the former of whom was born in New Jersey and who, as a young man, came to Michigan and operated one of the first saw-mills of the community, together with the engaging in his trade as a cabinet-maker. To the marriage of James H. and Adella Haskins have been born three children, Charles Theodore and Altie M., who are deceased, and James B.

James B. Haskins received his early education in the common schools of Ensley township, after which he attended the Howard City high school.

an institution from which he graduated with the class of 1898. Following his school days, he became an employe of B. J. Lowrey, who was the manager and editor of the *Howard City Record*, on which Mr. Haskins was engaged in the publishing business for about two years, after which he went to Big Rapids, Michigan, for a short time, thence to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was engaged in editorial work for about two years. Late in 1902 Mr. Haskins returned to Howard City, Montcalm county, and purchased a half interest in the plant of the *Howard City Record*, this partnership continuing until April 1, 1906, when he purchased the whole interest in the business and became the editor and publisher of the paper, which he now edits and publishes in a most able and efficient manner.

On September 10, 1902, James B. Haskins was married to Bella M. Scott, who was born at Big Rapids, Michigan, a daughter of Stephen C. and Bella (Munn) Scott, natives of Indiana. James B. and Bella M. Haskins are the parents of three children, Iva Natalie, Elizabeth Scott and James Stephen, aged twelve, nine and six years, respectively.

Mr. Haskins is prominent in the official life of Montcalm county, now being the postmaster of Howard City, an office which he has occupied since 1912, and he has served his town as president for one year and as treasurer for two years. In politics, he is an ardent Republican. Fraternally, Mr. Haskins is a member of Howard City Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and he is a member of Dewitt Clinton Consistory and of the Saladin Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

WILLIAM A. HARRIS.

William A. Harris, of Pierson township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on January 8, 1849, in England. He emigrated to America with his parents the same year and has lived in the state of Michigan ever since. His father, Orlandon Harris, was born in 1823, in Whitehorse Tavern, England, married in that country and then removed to the United States, locating in Allen township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he purchased one hundred acres of land. He still lives on the home place, where, at the ripe age of ninety-two years, he is enjoying the fruits of an active life. Ann M. (Morely) Harris, mother of William A. Harris, was born on November 24, 1825, in England, and died on October 2, 1909. She and her husband were the parents of these children: William A., Elizabeth, widow of John Hes.

who was a native of England; Jane, widow of Edgar Parrish; Robert, now living in Coldwater, Michigan; Lewis, also of Coldwater, Michigan, who is engaged as a traveling salesman, and Harriet, wife of Fred Frary.

William A. Harris received his education in the township schools of Hillsdale county, Michigan, remaining at home until twenty-one years of age. He then married Catherine Cain, on November 28, 1878, and began independently to accumulate a comfortable competency. Catherine Cain was born on December 8, 1858, in Jonesville, Michigan, and is the daughter of J. D. Cain, whose family are of French descent. Soon after their marriage, William A. Harris and his wife removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, where they have since remained and where they have reared and educated their four children, whose names follow: George D., a resident of Flint, Michigan, an electrician by trade; Emma, a graduate of the Pierson high school, from which her brother, George, also graduated, and the wife of John K. Burch, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Milfred B. and Mildred C. (twins) were born on May 29, 1891, and are both graduates of the high school at Pierson, Michigan. Mildred C. is also a graduate of the Montcalm county normal and taught school prior to her marriage to Frank Pierce.

William A. Harris is a Republican in his political views and is progressive in his agricultural pursuits. He is engaged in general farming and stock raising and has a well-regulated place, which was much improved in 1904 by the erection of a large, well-equipped barn. His wife is an active member of the Disciples church, which denomination they heartily support.

CHESTER H. STEBBINS.

One of the influential retired citizens of Lakeview, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Chester H. Stebbins, who has lived in Lakeview for a great many years.

Chester H. Stebbins was born in Clinton county, Michigan, December 17, 1841, a son of Chauncey and Sophia (Rice) Stebbins. Chauncey Stebbins was born in Conway, Massachusetts, and was the son of Chester Stebbins. The Stebbins family is of English origin and the founder of the family in America was Rollin Stebbins, who came over in the early days with the Pilgrim Fathers. Chauncey Stebbins first came to Michigan in 1834, locating in Clinton county, and when Chester H. was but a small boy the family moved to Ionia county where the father had secured by trade a tract of

farming land, which is now the site of the reformatory. On that farm Chester H. passed his boyhood, attending the schools near his home and receiving probably a little better than the common school education possible in this section in those early days. While still a small boy he began assisting the father in the work of the farm and while still in his teens the father died, after which Chester H. made his home with a brother until the time of his marriage. After marriage, he and his brother, George, formed a partnership for the purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land, which they farmed together for a time and then divided, and on his portion Chester lived for a great many years.

Chester H. Stebbins came to Montcalm county in 1866, locating in Lakeview, and has since made his home there. His first business venture was a tannery, which he opened and operated for some four years, and by that time realizing that the distance to a railroad was a serious handicap to his business and also the need of a planing-mill being apparent, he closed up his tannery and became engaged in the mill business, operating that for some six or seven years. His next venture was the purchase of farming lands in Cato township, where he took up agriculture as an occupation, but continued to reside in Lakeview. He prospered in that venture and at one time owned and operated two hundred and twenty acres of land. In addition to his farming interests, he owns his home in Lakeview, which was one of the first in the town of modern construction. In 1908 Chester Stebbins practically retired from the active duties of life, having given many years to active and useful pursuits.

Chester H. Stebbins was first married in 1861, his bride being Emmeline Pike, a native of Canada. Her death occurred seven years later and she left one child, Ensign B., now a banker in Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, who married Mattie Fuller, and they have three children, Allen, Hazel and Mildred. About 1870 Mr. Stebbins was again married, his bride being Bertha O. Porter, a native of Ohio and two children of that union lived to maturity. These are Laura, who married Addison Kirtland and has four children, Lyle, Clair, William and Dean; and Roy, who married Elma Gaffield and is the father of two children, Dorothy and Walter. Mrs. Bertha Stebbins died in 1914 and in August of 1915, Mr. Stebbins married Mrs. Minerva (Brown) Porter, widow of a brother of the second Mrs. Stebbins, and the mother of six children: Addie, Una, Glenn, Alvin, Bertha and Clayton.

Throughout the years of his residence in Lakeview, Mr. Stebbins has

been actively interested in the growth and development of various community interests. He has served as president of the village and was a member of the council for a great many years. Independent in politics, he has served as township supervisor, township treasurer, justice of the peace and school trustee, discharging the various duties thus devolving upon him in a manner pleasing to all concerned.

Ensign Stebbins, eldest son of Chester H., was the founder of the furniture factory in Lakeview, which has meant so much to the commercial and manufacturing interests of the place, and Roy Stebbins, youngest son of Chester H., is now at the head of this factory.

WILLIAM W. KEITH.

William W. Keith, a retired farmer of Pierson, was born in Otsego county, New York, on May 30, 1834, being the son of Pierce and Mary (Weeden) Reynolds. When William was but two years of age his father died, and at the age of four his mother passed away and the young boy was given to Thomas Keith, a prominent Democratic politician of the state of New York. At the time Polk was elected President, Thomas Keith was elected by his county to represent it in the Legislature. That was when William was a lad of ten years.

William W. Keith grew to manhood in the state of New York and lived there until he was twenty-eight years of age, at which time his foster father, Thomas Keith, died, and he came to Michigan. On his arrival at Rockford, Kent county, his only earthly possession was five dollars in money. He went to work at once in a saw-mill, where he was engaged until 1865, when he returned to New York. After renting land in New York state until 1877, the family returned to Pierson, where Mr. Keith was again engaged in a saw-mill, being employed by Fred F. Taylor for a time. He later served for twelve years as town marshal and constable and managed to save enough from his meager earnings to purchase an eighty-acre farm in Pierson township, which he held for a number of years, when he traded one-half of it for town property. Mr. Keith spent some years in the Upper Peninsula, where he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he after a time sold, and purchased six acres of land in the village of Pierson.

In 1857 William W. Keith was married in New York state to Elmira

Peck, who was a first cousin of Governor Peck, of Wisconsin, the author of "Peck's Bad Boy." Mrs. Keith was the daughter of Chester Peck, a brother of David Peck, the father of George Peck, the author.

To Mr. and Mrs. Keith were born the following children: Chester, who died while the family were still residents of the state of New York, and Myrtle Kate, who died in 1883, at the age of seventeen years. The wife and mother died six years later, in 1889.

In 1892 William W. Keith was married to Mrs. Edith Porter, who came to Pierson to purchase property. She was a native of Ohio and after her marriage to Mr. Keith she resided in Pierson until her death, on November 13, 1914.

Mr. Keith is a Democrat of much prominence and takes much interest in the activities of his party. He has been a member of the town council for a number of years.

PROF. ARAL E. COOK.

Prof. Aral E. Cook, teacher, educator, superintendent of the public schools of Carson City, and a prominent citizen of Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Carson City, on July 7, 1881, the son of Walter S. and Anna (Straight) Cook, natives of Morrow county, Ohio, and Hillsdale county, Michigan, respectively.

Walter S. Cook was educated in the schools of his native county and lived there until he was sixteen years of age, when he moved to Richland county, where he lived for some time and then went to Hudson, in Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he was married to Anna Straight, after which they came to Carson City, about 1877, making their home in this locality for several years and then going to Petoskey, where Mr. Cook now lives. Mrs. Anna Cook died in 1894, and two years later Mr. Cook was married to Addie A. McClure. Walter S. and Anna Cook were the parents of two children, Aral E. and Eva Delora, who is the wife of Fred Colson and lives at Lansing, Michigan.

When twelve years of age, Aral E. Cook moved with his parents to Petoskey, Michigan, where he completed his elementary education, and where he lived for five years, and then, his mother having died, Mr. Cook returned to Carson City, where he attended high school, and then became a student at the Mt. Pleasant Normal College, an institution from which Aral E. Cook graduated in 1905. Later Professor Cook was a student of special work in

science and education at the University of Chicago, after completing which he was a teacher for three years in the Montcalm county rural schools and then for two years was principal of the Vestaburg schools.

Professor Cook then became the principal of the Trufant school for two years, after which he was a teacher in the high school of Lakeview for four years, and then was made superintendent of the Lakeview schools, remaining in this office for three years. In 1913 Professor Cook came to Carson City and became superintendent of the city schools, a position which he now holds and an office which he is serving with notable efficiency and ability. During the administration of Prof. Aral E. Cook, great progress has been made in the various phases of school work in Carson City, among the most notable being the erection of a new fifteen-thousand-dollar, modern addition to the school building, as a result of which Carson City now has one of the best equipped and most convenient school buildings of the county and vicinity.

During the year 1906, Prof. Aral E. Cook was married to Carrie M. Cadham, who was born at Leland, Michigan, the daughter of John and Anna (Service) Cadham. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Cook was a well-known school teacher, having attended the Mt. Pleasant Normal College and for six years was a successful teacher in the schools of Leelanau county. To the marriage of Aral E. and Carrie Cook have been born two children, Walter John and Rhea Rosamond, aged four and one, respectively.

Prof. Aral E. Cook and his wife are prominent members of the Congregational church at Carson City. Professor Cook is a Mason and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

FRED U. O'BRIEN.

In the domain of newspaper enterprise in Montcalm county, Michigan, Fred U. O'Brien has attained a position of influence and special recognition, and as editor of the *Coral News* for the past eighteen years has made his paper one of the leading exponents of social and industrial life in the county. His loyalty and public spirit are of the highest type and he has made a splendid record of achievement in his chosen field of endeavor.

Fred U. O'Brien is a native of Michigan, having been born in the city of Ionia, Ionia county, on May 19, 1869, and has been a resident of Coral almost continuously since 1873. He is the son of Frederick W. and Augusta

(Hanham) O'Brien, who are of Irish descent, and natives of Ontario, Canada. As a boy and young man the subject of this sketch spent his time in the public schools of Coral, and worked in the stave and lumber mills of northwestern Montcalm county. At the age of nineteen years he entered the office of the *Howard City Record* to learn the printer's trade. After serving his apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman printer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and in smaller towns in Michigan until 1897, when he established the *Coral News*, working with success and public commendation.

The marriage of Fred U. O'Brien with Ora E. Reighley, a native of Newton, Kansas, took place on July 23, 1892. Mrs. O'Brien is the daughter of William S. and Sarah (Williams) Reighley, who were pioneer settlers in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are the parents of the following children: Lena A., who is a graduate of the Coral high school, attended the Ferris Institute for two terms and is an accomplished musician and teacher of music; Frederick, who follows the occupation of a printer, is employed in his father's office; George H., who is a graduate of the high school at Coral, is employed as a bookkeeper in the bank at Coral, and Edmund, the youngest, is still attending school.

The subject of this sketch, in his political interests, follows the principles of the Republican party. He is intensely interested in the question of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, and through the columns of his paper gives valuable support to temperance work in Montcalm county, where he has acted as a member of the Anti-Saloon League since its organization in 1901. Aside from this Mr. O'Brien contributed largely to the *Local Option Yellow Jacket*, a paper which played one of the most prominent parts in the movement which placed Montcalm county on the dry list. He is now stumping Michigan in the interests of the state-wide prohibition movement. By his native command of the English language and the spontaneity of expression, which have placed the Irish people among the leading orators and writers of the past, Mr. O'Brien has been able to reach effectively a large number of people who have readily supported him in his convictions along the lines of temperance. The career of Mr. O'Brien has not been devoid of hardships. He has been obliged to meet adverse circumstances and to rise above unjust criticisms, and his success today in his chosen field of endeavor is due largely to the enduring and persevering qualities of his nature which have enabled him to conquer adversity.

Not only in the field of newspaper work has Fred U. O'Brien gained distinction, but as postmaster of Coral, an office he has held for fourteen

years, he has received a high degree of public trust and confidence. Mr. O'Brien has also received recognition from the political party of which he is a member, having been chosen to serve as delegate to both county and state conventions at various times.

THOMAS D. DAVIS.

No history of Montcalm county would be complete without fitting mention of the life and services of the late Thomas D. Davis, one of the pioneers of Bloomer township, this county, an honored veteran of the Civil War and for years one of the leaders in the life of the community in which the best part of his life was lived. He became a resident of Bloomer township in 1859, making his home in what was then a forest wilderness, and lived to see that section develop from its primeval state to a state of high cultivation, with a proper and well-established social order, and in the good work of bringing about these latter conditions played no inconspicuous part. His widow, who still survives him, was a faithful and helpful pioneer wife and mother and retains the most vivid recollections of the hard years through which the pioneers passed during the period in which the forests were being cleared that the land might be rendered habitable.

Thomas D. Davis was born in the state of Pennsylvania in 1826, son of Aaron and Elmira (Baker) Davis. While he was yet a small boy his parents moved to Attica, New York, and there he grew to manhood. He married in 1849 and for ten years thereafter was engaged in farming in the Attica neighborhood. In 1859 he and his little family came to Montcalm county to make a new home in the forest, the promising possibilities of this region at that time beginning to impress the people of the East. Mr. Davis bought two adjoining forty-acre tracts in the northeast quarter of section 10 in Bloomer township and, cutting a small clearing in the woods about eighty rods back from the trail which led through that section, erected a small house of logs and there made his first home. At that time there were no established roads through the forest, the pioneers having followed a mere "blazed" trail through the woods nearly all the way from Pewamo. William Davis, a brother of Thomas D. had settled here a year or two before and had already had his home set up on the tract now occupied by William Davis, son of Thomas D., hence the newcomers were not wholly "strangers in a strange land." Notwithstanding this advantage of kinship with an even

earlier pioneer, however, the outlook was not encouraging and it was with no small misgiving that Mr. Davis entered upon his new responsibilities. The expense of the trip out here had exhausted practically all his ready cash and when he arrived here with his wife and five small children he had but five dollars in money and no house in which to shelter his family. For the moment he was so disheartened by the bleak prospect then presented that he gladly would have returned to New York if he had had the money for the return trip, but his wife, with the fine courage of the true pioneer, looked forward to the home they should have when the land should be cleared and the country settled and they proceeded hopefully to build their home and were fairly well established when the Civil War broke out. In 1864 Thomas D. Davis enlisted for service in behalf of the Union in Company C, Third Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was in the service until some time after the war closed, receiving his discharge in September, 1865, having been confined to a hospital for two or three months previously. Upon returning from the army he bought a forty-acre tract from his brother, on which there was a house near the road, the place where William Davis now lives, and there he made his home until shortly before his death, when he moved into Carson City, where he died in 1900. Thomas D. Davis was a man of earnest Christian character, for many years a deacon in the Baptist church and active in all good works; a good citizen who had done faithfully his part in the work of bringing about proper conditions in the neighborhood of his home.

In 1849 Thomas D. Davis was united in marriage, near Attica, New York, to Caroline Crawford, who was born at Brighton, near the city of Rochester, New York, in 1831, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Fuller) Crawford, and who is now living in this county at the advanced age of eighty-five, still in vigorous physical condition, as active and alert as most women twenty years her junior. Daniel Crawford was a descendant of Scottish Presbyterians who sought refuge in the north of Ireland during the days of the persecution of those of their faith on the other side of the Irish Sea, one of the earlier descendants of whom, John Crawford, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, died in that county in 1773. His son, John, born in Poundridge, Ireland, in 1776, came to America and married Parthenia Lyon, who was born in Bedford, Massachusetts. He died in Saratoga, New York, in 1831. John Crawford, the founder of that branch of the Crawford family in this country, was a man of strong and vigorous character and was noted for his invariable kindness of heart. His son, Daniel Crawford, was

born at Saratoga, New York, on January 19, 1802, married Mary Fuller and lived near Rochester, where, during the early years of his married life, he was engaged as a brick-maker and later became a substantial farmer. His wife, Mary Fuller, was born at East Bloomington, New York, in 1811, and both she and her husband died at West Bethany, in that state. Their daughter, Caroline, lived near Attica until her marriage to Mr. Davis.

To Thomas D. and Caroline (Crawford) Davis eleven children were born, two of whom died in infancy, Jane, at the age of eight; Mary, at the age of eleven; Frank and Munroe, at the ages of thirty-one and twenty-nine, respectively, of typhoid fever in 1879, and George, in 1895, leaving a widow, Myrtle (Sperry) Davis, and four children. Of the surviving children, Emily, widow of Thomas F. Fuller, whose family history is given on another page in this volume, is living on the Fuller farm one mile west and a half mile north of the old Davis farm in Bloomer township, and her aged mother is making her home with her; Charles lives near Butternut; Emmett lives in Sheridan; William lives on the old homestead.

HARVEY E. HOWORTH.

Harvey E. Howorth, a prominent farmer, residing on his farm of three hundred and fifteen acres, located in sections 25, 26 and 36, Bushnell township, Montcalm county, was born in Allegany county, New York, and was the son of George and Mariah (Shave) Howorth.

George and Mariah Howorth were natives of England and came to the United States, with those of their children who were born in the old country, and settled in the state of New York. They were the parents of fifteen children, twelve of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and two are now living: Mary, the widow of Corydan Rice, lives in Palo, Ionia county, and Harvey E., who was but three years old when his father died.

After the death of George Howorth the family remained in New York state for seven years, when the mother with her children moved to North Plains, Ionia county, where they resided for two years, after which they were residents of Berlin for two years, before they came to Bushnell township, where the mother bought forty acres of land, and where she lived the rest of her life.

Harvey E. Howorth began to work for himself at the age of eighteen and soon thereafter bought the home place of his mother and since that

time he had added many acres to his original purchase. His success has been due to his frugal habits and his active and industrious life.

On October 11, 1879, Harvey E. Howorth was married to Adele Corey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corey, and to this union the following children have been born: Hugh, who resides in Lansing; James, a large landowner in Montana and the proprietor of a large elevator, and Mable, the wife of Claire Wright, who assists in the work on the farm of Mr. Howorth.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corey were the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy; Charles A., who is also deceased, and Adele. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corey were born in New York state.

Fraternally Mr. Howorth is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He is a member of the Republican party, but is not an active politician and has never been an office seeker.

MATTHEW GOOBY.

Matthew Gooby is a native of Littleport, England, having been born in Cambridgeshire, May 1, 1832. He is the son of John and Rebecca (Rowell) Gooby, and grew up in the country of his nativity. After reaching the age of twenty-two he was married to Elizabeth Padgett, also a native of Littleport, and the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Padgett. In 1860 the couple came to America where they took up their residence in Euclid, Ohio, now a suburb of Cincinnati.

Shortly after the arrival of Matthew Gooby in this country, a call was sent out for volunteers to serve the cause of the Union in the Civil War, and Mr. Gooby, though not yet a citizen of the United States, desired to give his services and his life if necessary to preserve those principles which he believed were right. He took out naturalization papers while in the army and enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Third Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. During the war the subject of this sketch had many varied experiences, including service with Sherman until the fall of Atlanta, and during the two years and ten months of fighting he missed only one day of active service.

At the close of the war Matthew Gooby returned to Euclid, where he remained until the fall of 1866 when he decided to buy a farm in Mich-

igan. The land was located on the north edge of North Plains township, in Ionia county, along the line of Bloomer township, in Montcalm county. The farm, which originally consisted of forty acres, was covered almost entirely with a wild growth of underbrush and timber. The task of clearing the land occupied the immediate attention of Mr. Gooby, who worked unceasingly to transform the place into a cultivated region. The wife of the subject of this sketch proved a valuable assistant to her husband during the first great struggle of their life on a farm in the wilderness. Through her help he was able in a short time to clear large tracts of the forest, which he improved and to which he added forty acres ten years later. From time to time he continued to buy small tracts of land until the original farm spread over a large area. For three years he lived near Palo where his wife passed away in 1883. Since 1905, Mr. Gooby has made his home with his children and though he has passed eighty years he is as able as the average farmer to labor on the farm. During his boyhood days the opportunities for receiving an education were extremely limited. Despite the fact that he was deprived of school advantages, Mr. Gooby possesses a mind of unusual quality and in business affairs has gained much more success than many who have had every advantage of the modern schools.

Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gooby, three claimed England as the country of their nativity. They are now deceased. Those born in Ohio are Keziah, who became the wife of Edward Mull, of Fairwell, Michigan; John, who lives in North Plains township, Ionia county, and Emma, the wife of Orson Bogert who resides in Bloomer township, Montcalm county. The following members of the family were born in Michigan, Rebecca, the wife of William Graham, who resides in Bloomer township; Matthew, who makes his home in Ionia county, and Harriet, who married Della Cummings, also of Ionia county.

THOMAS F. FULLER.

The late Thomas F. Fuller, who for years was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers as well as one of the leading citizens of Bloomer township, this county, and who died at his home there in 1913, was a native of New York, having been born in Steuben county, that state, in 1834, son of William and Hannah (Sanford) Fuller, the former a native of Dutchess county, that same state.

Thomas F. Fuller grew up in Steuben county and there married Amanda Schuyler, who was born in Wayne county, New York. In 1860 he and his wife and two small children came to Michigan and settled in this county, locating in Bloomer township, where Mr. Fuller bought a tract of timber land just south of the railroad, one and one-half miles west of Carson City, and proceeded to clear away the forest and create a home in the then wilderness. In 1864 Mr. Fuller's wife died, leaving two children, Frances R., now the wife of William Davis, of Bloomer township, this county, and Scott, who went to South Dakota years ago. In 1867 Mr. Fuller married, secondly, Emily Davis, who was born near Batavia, New York, and who came to this county early in 1859 with her parents, Thomas D. and Caroline (Crawford) Davis, who settled on a farm near where Mr. Fuller first settled in Bloomer township. Later Mr. Fuller bought the farm one mile east and one mile north of Butternut, in this county, where he spent the remainder of his life and where his widow now lives.

Mr. Fuller was much interested in school work and his efforts in behalf of the schools during the formative period of that now well-established farming community did very much toward the creation of proper educational standards thereabout. He was also active in the work of the Free-Will Baptist church and was regarded ever as a leader in such movements as were designed to better conditions in his neighborhood and at the time of his death in 1913 there was a general feeling of loss throughout that community, for he was a man who had done well his part in all the relations of life.

To Thomas F. and Emily (Davis) Fuller were born three children, Ada A., Ray T. and Eva V., all of whom became teachers. Both sisters were graduated from the Carson City high school and from the Normal College at Ypsilanti and the former is now a teacher in the public schools of Grand Rapids, this state. Ray T. Fuller was graduated from the high school at Carson City and from the Medical College at Saginaw and is now superintendent of the Sarah Goodrich Hospital at New Orleans, having for six years previous to the time of entering upon his present valuable service been dean of Flint Medical College in that same city. Doctor Fuller married Ida Stuckey, who was born in Ohio and reared in Gratiot county, this state, and to this union three children have been born: Paul, now aged fifteen; Esther E. and Raymond.

Thomas F. Fuller's brother, Benjamin F. Fuller, was one of the prominent pioneers of this county, he having come here as a teacher in 1854, and

later served as a justice of the peace, supervisor and town clerk. When the Civil War broke out, Benjamin F. Fuller enlisted for service in the Union army and was slain in battle.

BENJAMIN L. SPANGLER.

Benjamin L. Spangler, a well-known farmer of the Carson City neighborhood, living in Bloomer township, this county, was born on the farm on which he is now living and where he has spent his entire life, in 1866, son of Reuben and Hannah M. (Long) Spangler, the former a native of the state of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, pioneers of that section, the former of whom died in 1901 and the latter of whom is still living in the old home there, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

Reuben Spangler moved to Ohio with his parents when he was a boy and grew to manhood in Ashtabula county, in the latter state, and there he married Hannah M. Long. In 1855 he had made a prospecting trip through this section of Michigan and bought a forty-acre tract along the east line of Montcalm county, in the southeast part of Bloomer township, and later bought sixty more in Gratiot county, but did not make his home in this county until 1865, in which year he and his wife took up their residence on the woodland tract and there they made their permanent home. At that time that section of the county was very sparsely settled, the roads thereabout being but winding trails through the deep forest. The now flourishing village of Carson City had not then been laid out and the now long-established county-line road had not then been cut through the woods. For the first two or three winters after coming to this county, Reuben Spangler found occupation in the lumber camps, but presently he got his farm cleared and under cultivation and thereafter devoted his whole time to its proper cultivation. He died in 1901 and his widow is still living there.

To Reuben Spangler and wife were born eight children, four of whom grew to maturity. Those who grew to maturity are Salina, Elma (deceased), Benjamin and Estella. Salina married A. H. Pruden and lives near Greenville, and has three children, Addie, Elma and Ida. Estella married J. H. Drew and lives on the old homestead and has six children, Ben, Madge, Meda, Maude, Ruby and Bernice.

Benjamin L. Spangler has spent his whole life on the farm on which he was born and since his father's death has had full charge of the opera-

tion of the home place, continuing to make his home with his aged mother, who is now one of the oldest settlers in that part of the county, and to whose comfort in her old age he is thoroughly devoted. In his youth he attended the district schools of his home neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood proved a valuable aid to his father in the work of developing the farm. Though still in the very prime of his life, Mr. Spangler may be looked upon as one of the pioneers of that section, which he has seen develop from its primitive forest state to its present condition as a well-established and prosperous farming region, and is in consequence one of the best-known men in that part of the county.

GEORGE F. HARRIMAN.

George F. Harriman, a well-known farmer and stock raiser of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Long Eaton, England, September 21, 1862, the son of George and Emma (Horton) Harriman, both natives of England. Accompanied by his eldest brother, Jack, George Harriman, Sr., came to America, locating in Montcalm county, where he purchased forty acres of land. About six months later, Mrs. Harriman and the remainder of the family came to this country and joined Mr. Harriman in the newly-founded home. This tract was subsequently increased to eighty acres and here the parents of Mr. Harriman lived the remainder of their lives. To them were born ten children, four of whom grew to maturity, but only three of whom are now living: George F. is the subject of this sketch; Enoch, who is a graduate of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, is now a resident of Springfield, Illinois, and Sam lives in Alden, Antrim county, Michigan.

George F. Harriman lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he was married and moved to twenty acres of land which he had previously purchased, living on this farm for two years. From this place he went to Fairplain township and lived two years, when he moved to Montana and engaged in the cattle business for three years. He then returned to Fairplain township and purchased one hundred acres, on which he lived for eleven years, when he bought the Wescott place, later selling it and moving to his present farm, which is known as "Cherry Farm." This farm consists of fifty acres and besides it Mr. Harriman farms one hundred and twenty acres belonging to E. H. Harriman and ten acres which are

leased, making one hundred and eighty acres, all in Bushnell township. Mr. Harriman is an extensive breeder of pure-blooded Holstein cattle and has an excellent herd, which is headed by "Pontiac Jewel" and "Butter Boy."

On November 25, 1883, Mr. Harriman was married to Eva Slocum, the daughter of Henry and Martha (Galloup) Slocum, the former of whom was born in New York state and came to Michigan when a young man, and the latter born in England and came to America with her parents when a small girl, settling at North Plains, Ionia county, Michigan. To Mr. and Mrs. Harriman have been born nine children, three of whom, Joe, Vona and Eva, died in infancy. The living children are, Dora, the wife of Claude Barker, who lives on the same farm with Mr. Harriman; Emma, the wife of J. Sitts, of Antrim county; Charlotte, who is a music teacher and lives at home; Inez, Anna and Sam Enoch, all of whom reside at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Harriman and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are enthusiastic workers of that congregation, Mr. Harriman being superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally, Mr. Harriman is a member of the Fenwick Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past noble grand; also a member of the Gleaners at Fenwick, of which he has been secretary for fifteen years. Politically, Mr. Harriman is a Republican, but has never been an office seeker nor cared to take an active part in politics.

HARRISON PIERCE.

Harrison Pierce, one of the oldest and best-known farmers of Eureka township, this county, who for many years has taken an active part in the affairs of that community, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Napoleon township, Jackson county, this state, August 8, 1840, son of Harry and Nancy (Mason) Pierce, both natives of Onondaga county, New York, where they grew up and where they were married.

Harry Pierce was a farmer and was reared to that vocation from childhood. A few years after their marriage he and his wife and their little family came to this state and located in Napoleon township, Jackson county, where they made their home until 1845, in which year they came to this county, settling in Eureka township, near the village of Greenville. Harry Pierce entered a quarter of a section of land there, his tract being divided by the river, and there the family made their home for about ten years.

Mrs. Pierce died in 1853 and shortly thereafter Mr. Pierce sold his place and moved his family to Greenville. Later he moved to the neighborhood of Grand Haven and from there presently went to Canada, but after awhile returned to Greenville, where and in the vicinity of which he spent the remainder of his life. Harry Pierce and wife were the parents of six children, namely: Chloe Anne, now deceased, who married C. B. Miner; Edwin R., deceased; James, deceased; Minerva, now deceased, who married James C. Schultz; Lavina, deceased, who married George N. Cole, and Harrison, now the sole survivor of the family, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch.

Harrison Pierce was about five years of age when his parents came from Jackson county and settled in this county and he was about thirteen years old when his mother died. Shortly after that he began working in the lumber woods and was thus engaged for several years, lumbering in the winters and working on farms during the summers. In 1861 he bought a forty-acre tract of the state-asylum land in section 25, of Eureka township, this county, and two years later, on September 27, 1863, was united in marriage to Harriet Monroe, daughter of Samuel Monroe and wife, pioneers of that section. After their marriage Harrison Pierce and his wife settled on the forty-acre tract above mentioned and made their home there until the death of Samuel Monroe, after which they moved to the old Monroe home, in order to make a proper home for Mrs. Monroe, and there they have lived ever since, living in the same house in which they were married more than a half century ago. Harrison Pierce is a substantial citizen of his community, the owner of one hundred and twenty acres in section 24 and eighty acres in section 25, of Eureka township, and his pleasant home on rural route No. 4, out of Greenville, has been for many years noted as one of the most hospitable homes in that part of the county.

To Harrison and Harriet (Monroe) Pierce four children have been born, as follow: Aria A., wife of George Poppeywell, of Greenville; Martha, wife of George Perry, of Greenville; Effie, deceased, and Edson R., who still makes his home on the old home place. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith. The family ever has taken a proper part in the general social activities of the community and all are held in high esteem thereabout.

At the time of its greatest activity back in the seventies, Harrison Pierce was an ardent member of the Greenback party, but after that party declined and ceased to be, he became quite independent in his political views and has

so continued. He was prominent in the local councils of the old Greenback party and had served as a delegate to state conventions of the same. He has taken an interested part in local civic affairs and has served as highway overseer of Eureka township. He also has been an officer of his school district for more than forty years and has done much to advance the cause of education there during that time. Mr. Pierce is a member of Tent No. 458, Knights of the Maccabees, and for years has taken a warm interest in the affairs of that organization.

ORSON BOGERT.

Orson Bogert, who is one of the successful farmers of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, was born in 1861, on the southern edge of the township in which he now resides, and is the son of Richard and Emma (Decker) Bogert. Richard Bogert, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in the state of New York, and at an early age was left an orphan. He was reared in an orphan asylum and in 1858, after he had begun an independent career, settled in Michigan. One of his purposes in coming to this state was that he might marry Ruhe Ann Decker, whom he had known in former years. When he arrived here he found that she had just been married to a rival, so he turned his attention to her sister, Emma Decker, who consented to become his wife. Both Emma and Ruhe Ann Decker were the daughters of John S. Decker, who settled in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, during the fifties. They were pioneers in the agricultural life of this community where they spent the greater part of their lives.

Richard Bogert gave his service to the Union during the Civil War, and enlisted as a volunteer in a Michigan regiment for a term of three years. At the close of the war Mr. Bogert lost his wife, who was survived by her husband and one son, who is the subject of this sketch, another son, William, having died. In 1867 Mr. Bogert married Ruhe Decker, who has been spoken of before as the sister of his first wife. The couple lived in Bloomer township where Mr. Bogert followed the occupation of farming until his death.

Reared to the sturdy discipline of farm life, the subject of this sketch was well qualified to cope with the agricultural problems that confronted him when he began an independent career. After his marriage Mr. Bogert bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the southern part of



MR. AND MRS. ORSON BOGERT.

Bloomer township, where he continues to reside. He has managed the farm along modern methods of improvement and as a result owns one of the best cultivated places in the community.

In 1893 the marriage of Orson Bogert to Emma Gooby, the daughter of Matthew Gooby, took place. Mrs. Bogert, who was born in Euclid, Ohio, came to Michigan with her parents when she was a child. She is a woman of unusual business ability and for a number of years had full management of the extensive business carried on by her father, of whom a full account appears on another page of this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. Bogert two children have been born: Ney, who is now twenty years old, and Hattie. Ney helps his father on the farm.

JAMES W. URIE.

James W. Urie, one of the best-known farmers of Bloomer township, this county, former fish and game warden and a skilled gunsmith, who for years has been actively identified with the affairs of this county, is a native of Montcalm county, having been born on a pioneer woodland tract in Bloomer township, one mile south of the present town of Butternut, on February 28, 1859, son of Thomas S. and Matilda (Norris) Urie, who were among the earliest settlers of that section.

Thomas S. Urie was born in Ashland county, Ohio, and grew to manhood there. He married Matilda Norris, who was a native of that same county, and came to this county about the year 1854, settling in Bloomer township, where they bought a tract of timber land, and there the subject of this sketch was born. Soon thereafter Thomas S. Urie and his little family removed to Hillsdale county, remaining for four years, at the end of which time they came back to Montcalm county and made a permanent home in Bloomer township, buying a timber tract two and one-half miles south of the present site of Carson City, where Mr. and Mrs. Urie spent the remainder of their lives. At that time there were no roads through the forests in that section, the pioneers following the old Indian trails, and Thomas S. Urie did much toward preparing the land for its present high state of development. The town of Lyons then was the nearest trading point for the settlers in that part of the country and the elder Urie used to walk to that point for supplies, carrying meal and other provisions back on his back. Thomas S. Urie, in addition to being a robust and stalwart

farmer, was a skilled blacksmith and gunsmith, and his son, James W., early learned this form of craftsmanship, being of much assistance to his father both at the forge and at the bench at such times as the demand for their labors in this direction became too pressing. The Indians were good customers of these pioneer gunsmiths and it was nothing unusual in those early days for fifty or seventy-five redskins to be waiting at the door of the little shop of the Uries in the woods to have their firearms fixed, the smith and his son often working until midnight to get the tasks completed. As a farrier the elder Urie's services also were in great demand. He made his own horseshoes and nails and received six dollars a span for shoeing horses.

It was thus that the youth of James W. Urie was spent, his early years being devoted to the strenuous toil necessary to the clearing of the forest about the pioneer home and in helping his father in the smithy. He has worked as a gunsmith ever since he was old enough to stand at the bench and can make any part of a gun, today doing all kinds of up-to-date work in that line. After the death of his father he bought the old home place and continues to make his home there, having thus lived there ever since he was five years old. Mr. Urie has ever taken an active part in local public affairs and for twelve years gave very acceptable service as school director of his district. He also was for some years the fish and game warden for this district, during which term of service he ever gave studious and faithful attention to the interests of the state, always making sure of his cases before beginning proceedings, thus avoiding careless prosecutions.

On January 19, 1884, James W. Urie was united in marriage to Emma Wright, who was born in the neighboring county of Gratiot, daughter of John S. and Anginette (Garner) Wright, the former of whom was born in Suffolk county, England, on January 4, 1837, and died at the home of his son, John, at Maple Rapids, this state, on January 5, 1915, at the age of seventy-eight years. In 1853 John S. Wright came to America with his parents, the family settling at Wellington, in Lorraine county, Ohio, where they lived for a couple of years, at the end of which time they came to Michigan, locating at North Shade, in Gratiot county, in March, 1855, and there the elder Wrights spent the remainder of their lives. On July 3, 1859, John S. Wright was united in marriage to Anginette Garner, who was born in Summerhill, Courtland county, New York, February 23, 1837, and in the spring of 1860 settled on a forty-acre farm in section 10, Fulton township, Gratiot county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, and there their daughter Emma was born and there she made her home until her marriage to Mr. Urie.

To James W. and Emma (Wright) Urie five children have been born, namely: John S., who was born on December 31, 1884, in Gratiot county and started farming for himself in 1904, the next year buying a farm one-half mile south of the home farm in Bloomer township and there has been farming ever since, at the same time being actively engaged as an auctioneer, having been most of the time associated with C. E. Chandler, one of the best-known auctioneers in Michigan, and for the past five years has also been engaged in managing a threshing outfit; in 1914 was married to Winnie Davis, daughter of William Davis, a prominent resident of this county, a history of which family is set out in the biographical sketch of Mr. Davis, presented elsewhere in this volume; Frances, who married Neff Brown, living in the southeast part of Bloomer township, this county, and has two children, Paul and Iralorene, living, and one, Gladys, who died at the age of six weeks; Minnie, who married Albert Bennett, living in the northwest part of the neighboring county of Clinton, and has three children, James Warren, Ruth and Hazel; Myrtle, who is at home with her parents, and Carrie Belle, also at home.

MRS. EMMA C. SHERWOOD.

Emma C. Sherwood is one of the competent women who ably manage their affairs after they have been deprived, through death, of those who have sheltered and protected them. She was born on May 2, 1865, in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, just one mile east of her present home. She is the daughter of George W. and Sarah E. (Winegar) Collins. George W. Collins was born in the southern part of Michigan and was the son of George W. Collins, Sr. Shortly after the birth of George W. Collins, Jr., the family removed to Washtenaw county, Michigan, where they remained until death.

George W. Collins, Jr., was reared on the home place and remained at home until he was thirty years of age, at which time he purchased a farm in Montcalm county, Michigan. He had married while a resident of Washtenaw county and his wife had borne him two children. Her death had occurred previous to his removal to Montcalm county, Michigan, and the children had been left to the care of her parents. Each winter he returned to visit them until his second marriage, which was solemnized six years after

the death of his first wife. Two years later the children died. By his second marriage Mr. Collins had one child, Emma C.

On March 26, 1882, Emma C. Collins was united in marriage to Charles F. Sherwood, son of Solomon and Christina Sherwood, and to them one child was born, Frank C., who died in infancy. Solomon and Christina Sherwood were natives of Jackson county, Michigan, and removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, when their son, Charles F., was six months old. After the death of their own child, Charles F. and Emma C. Sherwood adopted a boy named Ted R. and he is now with his foster mother. Charles F. Sherwood was a member of the Bushnell Grange, as is also his widow. He was one of the charter members of the organization.

On November 16, 1915, Mrs. Sherwood removed to Palo, Ionia county, where she purchased a handsome brick residence, having sold her farms. She was possessed of two farms consisting of fifty acres and one hundred acres respectively, both of which she sold.

Charles F. Sherwood was taken sick in March, 1915, and died on June 18, 1915, and was buried in the Palo cemetery. He at one time was a member of the Maccabees. He was well liked and during his lifetime had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He was at the time of his death, treasurer of the Bushnell Grange. In politics he was a Republican.

M. JAY MINER.

M. Jay Miner, prosperous farmer and well-known citizen of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born one mile east of Bloomer Center, this county, on August 9, 1880, a son of George H. and Martha Annette (Yates) Miner, the former born in Lyons, Michigan, on November 20, 1853, a son of Martin J. and Lucinda (Hawley) Miner; the latter born at Chili, Monroe county, New York, a daughter of William and Margaret (Vandenburgh) Yates.

Martin J. Miner, the grandfather, was a son of Anderson and Delilah Miner, the former of whom was one of the first settlers in the southeast part of Montcalm county, Michigan, a United States government deed, dated September 1, 1851, granting to Anderson Miner one hundred and sixty acres in the northeast quarter of section 28, in Bloomer township, the grant being made by virtue of a land warrant given him as an artificer in Captain Partridge's company of United States Artificers, in the War of 1812.

Anderson Miner came from the state of New York to Montcalm county, Michigan, among the first of those to reach Bloomer township, they finding it necessary to cut roads through the timber and brush in order to reach their land in this community. As an early citizen Anderson Miner took an important part in the advancement of the interests of the early settlers, the first township meeting, at which the township was organized, being held in the home of Mr. Miner.

Martin J. Miner spent the greater part of life on the home farm in Bloomer township, although for some years he was engaged in business at Carson City, Montcalm county, as a furniture dealer, later as the operator of an elevator business, while at one time he was a builder, having superintended the erection of the building in which the State Bank of Carson City is now located.

Martin J. Miner was married to Lucinda Hawley, who was born in 1837, in Geneva county, New York, a daughter of Alpheus C. and Lucena (Emerson) Hawley, a sketch of whose lives is presented elsewhere in this volume under the name of George H. Lester, Mrs. Miner having been a sister of Mrs. O. L. Burdge, formerly the wife of George H. Lester. Mrs. Miner came to Montcalm county, Michigan, with her parents, where she grew to maturity and was married to Martin J. Miner, to them being born two children: George H., and Lucena, deceased, who was the wife of T. C. Frushour.

George H. Miner grew to maturity on the home farm in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, after completing his education in the public schools of the locality becoming a farmer, a vocation which he followed on one hundred and fifty-seven acres of land near the present Bloomer Center church for the whole of his life, with the exception of a few years when he was engaged in agricultural pursuits on eighty acres of land nearby, which farm he left and moved to his later place in 1881, living there until his death on August 26, 1908.

Martha Annette, the wife of George H. Miner, spent her early years at the home of her parents, William and Margaret (Vandenburgh) Yates, natives of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer county, New York. Later her parents moved to Monroe county, New York, living there until the death of Mrs. Yates, which occurred when Martha Annette was a child. Following the death of his wife, William Yates was married, a second time, the family moving, in the early seventies, to Montcalm county, Michigan, where, after living in several localities, they finally settled in Bloomer township, where William Yates spent his last days.

To the marriage of George H. and Martha Annette Miner, which occurred on March 18, 1874, were born two children: M. Jay, and one daughter who died in infancy. Mrs. Miner now lives on a farm near Bloomer Center, Montcalm county, Michigan.

M. Jay Miner was about one year of age when he came with his parents to Bloomer Center, where he was reared on the home farm, receiving his early education in the common schools of the locality, after which he became a student at the Carson City high school. Following his school days Mr. Miner spent some time at Chicago, Illinois, at Saginaw, Michigan, and other places, later returning to Bloomer township, this county, where he was married and then became a farmer on the old Miner farm. Mr. Miner first lived near the Bloomer Center church and then, in November, 1910, moved to his present home near the southwest corner of Bloomer Center, where he lives and cares for the cultivation of two hundred and forty acres of excellently improved and highly cultivated farm land.

On April 18, 1906, M. Jay Miner was married to Ola Thayer, who was born at Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, and to this marriage have been born five children: Martha Louise, Veneva Leone, Velma Elizabeth, George William, and Irma Lucille, who died when seven weeks old.

Mrs. Miner is a daughter of William Henry and Martha Jane (Luther) Thayer, the former born on December 27, 1840, in Erie county, New York, a son of John G. and Mary (Davis) Thayer; the latter born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of J. B. and Julia Ann (Washburne) Luther.

William H. Thayer spent his boyhood days on the home farm and when twenty-three years of age went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in dressing tools for oil-drilling apparatus, for eleven years. In 1874, Mr. Thayer moved to Carson City, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he lived and engaged in the drug business until March, 1907, when he went to Greenville, this county, and for four and one-half years was an employee of the Sprague & Company drug store. Mr. Thayer then went to Mt. Pleasant and followed the same line of work until April 11, 1914, when he moved to Bloomer Center, where he now resides.

As a citizen and political worker William H. Thayer has taken an important place in Montcalm county, while a resident of Carson City having served as township clerk for several years, was township treasurer two years, village treasurer one term, and was a school official for many years.

On March 15, 1870, William H. Thayer was married to Martha Jane Luther, who after the death of her mother, Julia Ann Luther, and the second

marriage of her father, J. B. Luther, lived with the parents of her step-mother until she was fourteen years of age, at that time going to Venango county, Pennsylvania, where she lived until her marriage. To the marriage of William H. and Martha Jane Thayer have been born six children: Grace E., William Earl, Ola M., George B., Roene L. and Everell D.

Ola Thayer, who is the wife of M. Jay Miner, was educated in the public schools of Carson City, graduating from the local high school in 1900, after which she became the deputy to Mr. Beemis, postmaster of Carson City, Montcalm county, remaining in that position for one year.

M. Jay Miner is one of the favorably known men of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, being foremost in those things having for their object the advancement of the community's interest and being a citizen who lends freely of his time and effort for the promotion of various projects dealing with scientific agriculture and the betterment of general local conditions. Fraternally, Mr. Miner is a prominent member of the Free and Accepted Masons, of Montcalm county.

CHARLES A. MABIE.

Charles A. Mabie, well-known farmer and highly-respected citizen of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, July 22, 1868, a son of Joel W. and Rachael S. (Koutz) Mabie, the former born in New York state, a son of Jeremiah and Lois (Evans) Mabie, who were of Holland-Dutch descent, the latter born in Mifflin township, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jacob Koutz and wife, who were of German descent.

When a boy, Joel W. Mabie came to the state of Michigan with his father and located in Ionia county, where Joel W. Mabie was married to Rachael S. Koutz, who came to Ionia county, Michigan, with her parents, after which Mr. Mabie and his wife moved to Fairplain township, Montcalm county, living there for some time and then moved to Bushnell township, a place which was the home of the elder Mabie for about forty years, during that time he being employed as a miller and working as a farmer on his farm of forty acres. Joel W. and Rachael S. Mabie were the parents of nine children, Lelias J., Marian A., Florence A., Luella J., Sarah E., Charles A., Sylvia L., Angie L. and William.

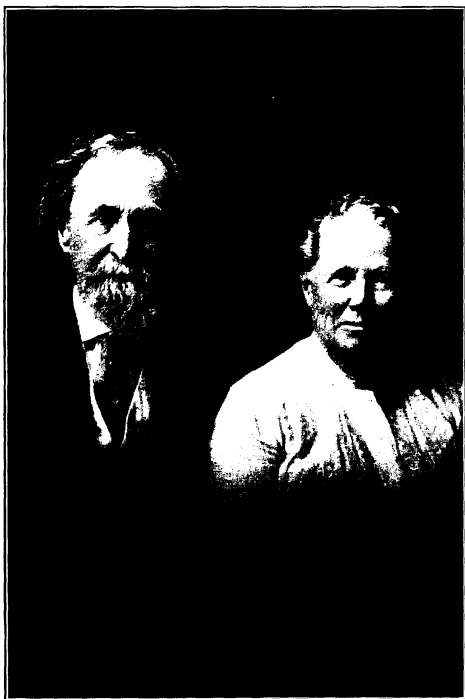
Charles A. Mabie lived on the home farm and contributed to the support of the home during the years of his early manhood and then, having married, Mr. Mabie took charge of the farm, which he improved and on which he is now successfully engaged in general farming.

On June 26, 1912, Charles A. Mabie was married to Nellie Borden, a daughter of Wilburt H. and Aramantha M. (McCrady) Borden, who moved to Ionia county from Oakland county, Michigan, Mrs. Borden originally having come from Canada, where she was born, of Scotch parentage. To the marriage of Charles A. and Nellie Mabie have been born two children, Rachael Aramantha, born on May 20, 1913, and Ronald Norman, April 22, 1915.

Charles A. Mabie is a member of Sheridan Lodge No. 7312, Modern Woodmen of America, and is a member of Sheridan Lodge No. 50, Knights of the Maccabees. In politics, Mr. Mabie is an ardent Republican, and although he has taken no especial part in the political life of the community, not aspiring to public office, he is known as a man of intelligence in party matters and is a citizen who is valued and appreciated for his part in the promotion of the general welfare of the township and county.

JOSEPH HANCHETT.

Prominently listed among the well-known veterans of the Civil War and substantial farmers of Montcalm county is found Joseph Hanchett, of Bushnell township, whose place on rural route No. 1, out of Sheridan, is one of the most productive farms thereabout. Joseph Hanchett was born in the town of Pompey, Onondaga county, New York, on May 16, 1834, son of Isaac P. and Lucina (Grimes) Hanchett, both natives of that same place, who came to Michigan in 1869 and located for a time in Palo, Ionia county, after which they came to Montcalm county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of ten children, four sons and six daughters. These four sons all enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War and fought bravely for the preservation of the nation's unity. Of these ten children, five are still living: Joseph, the subject of this sketch; E. J. Hanchett, a prosperous retired farmer living at Long Beach, California; A. C. Hanchett, of Clare county, this state; Nancy, widow of Edward Drake; Lottie, wife of Theodore Baxter, of



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH HANCHETT.

Palo, this state; Grimes, who was a soldier in the Civil War and was killed in service, and Becky, deceased, who married James Westcott.

Joseph Hanchett was reared on the home farm in New York state and after reaching manhood came to Michigan and began farming. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, the date of his enlistment being August 5, 1861. He served in this regiment until the close of the war, participating in many of the hardest-fought battles of the war during a period of four years and thirty-five days, during which time he never was off duty, and never received a wound. He received his honorable discharge on September 15, 1865. The Ninth Michigan was in the army commanded by Gen. George H. Thomas and from the time that famous general took command of the corps, Joseph Hanchett was attached to the general's service as body guard and was with General Thomas until the close of the war. He was mustered out on September 15, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee.

After the close of the war Joseph Hanchett returned to his home in this county and resumed his farming operations. He began with a small farm of eighty acres of cheap land, the country being "new" thereabout at that time, and gradually established a comfortable home; but not until he had overcome some rather discouraging setbacks, for twice he lost his farm, only to regain it again, and he has added to his original holdings until he now has a fine place of one hundred and sixty acres of well-tilled and productive land and is quite well circumstanced.

On March 4, 1856, Joseph Hanchett was united in marriage to Angeline Husker, who was born in Lenawee county, this state, on September 23, 1839, daughter of William and Mabel (Wallid) Husker, who has been a valuable and competent helpmate to him all these years since. Mr. and Mrs. Hanchett are quiet, unassuming people, who have the respect and regard of their many friends. Mr. Hanchett is a Republican and has served the public as treasurer of the highway commission. He is a member of James Corel Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Palo, and is held in high regard by the comrades of that post, as well as by all who know him throughout this part of the state, in which for so many years he has been a substantial factor.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hanchett were born two children, Irving and Cora. Irving died when twenty-three years of age, and Cora married Marshall Sherd and lives on the farm directly south of her father's home place.

(23b)

JAMES MINER.

On another page in this volume, in the biographical sketch relating to the venerable Uriah Miner, one of the best-known and most highly respected pioneers of this county, there is set out in detail something of the genealogy of the Miner family and of the beginnings of that family's work in Montcalm county, back in the days of the very beginning of a social order hereabout, and it therefore will not be necessary, in this connection, to repeat these details here, it being sufficient to say that James Miner, a progressive and energetic farmer of Bloomer township, this county, is a native of Ohio, who was born on a farm in Van Wert county, that state, December 26, 1856, son of Uriah and Matilda J. (Bodel) Miner, second child and first-born son of that excellent couple, both of whom are still living, at a ripe old age, at their home in Bloomer township, this county.

James Miner was about twelve or thirteen years old when he came to this county with his parents from Ohio and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm in Bloomer township, proving an invaluable assistant to his father in the strenuous labors connected with the clearing of the forest and rendering habitable the then wilderness. He received his elementary education in the district school of his home neighborhood, supplementing the same by a course in the high school at Ithica, county seat of the adjoining county of Gratiot, after which he entered college at Battle Creek, upon the completion of which excellent course he began teaching school and for three years, 1881-84, was thus engaged in Montcalm and Gratiot counties. He then went to Battle Creek, in which city he was connected with the Review and Herald Publishing Company until 1898, during which time he took a course in the dental department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1898. Upon receiving his diploma he entered upon the practice of his profession at Battle Creek and was thus engaged until 1904, in which year his eyes began to fail and he was most reluctantly compelled to relinquish his practice. He then went to Chicago, where for five years he was actively connected with the great publishing house of Rand McNally & Company. At the end of that time, in April, 1909, he returned to his old home in this county and, in order to relieve his father of the cares of the farm, advancing years by that time having begun to leave their trace upon the robust figure of his pioneer father, bought the old home place and has since that time been very successfully operating the same, making his home there.

In 1901 James Miner was united in marriage to Ola J. Hall, who was born in Iowa, daughter of James M. and Flora (Murdock) Hall, who later moved to a farm two or three miles out of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the daughter grew to womanhood. While attending college at Battle Creek she met Doctor Miner, who then was practicing dentistry there, and their marriage followed shortly thereafter. Doctor and Mrs. Miner take a proper part in the social activities of their home neighborhood and are held in high regard thereabout.

URIAH MINER.

Uriah Miner, one of the oldest and best-known pioneers of Montcalm county, who for nearly fifty years has been identified with the interests of this region, now living, in the calm "sunset time" of his life, on the place which he claimed from the forest wilderness in Bloomer township in 1859, a place now owned and managed by his son, James Miner, a well-known farmer of that section, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Harrison county, that state, on February 5, 1828, son of John and Barbara (Shaffer) Miner, both natives of that same state.

John Miner was a sturdy Ohio farmer, who moved with his family to Allen county, Indiana, where, in the neighborhood of Ft. Wayne, he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. When his parents moved to Indiana, Uriah Miner was about fourteen years old and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Allen county, that state. In September, 1853, he married Matilda J. Bodel, who was born near Columbus, Ohio, daughter of John S. and Sarah (Smith) Bodel, who later moved to Van Wert county, Ohio, where the daughter lived until her marriage. After his marriage Uriah Miner began farming in Van Wert county and presently bought a farm there, not far from the home of his wife's parents, on which he lived until 1866. In 1869 he came to Michigan, putting in his lot with that of the pioneers who then were beginning to penetrate the forest wilds of Montcalm county. Some time previous to taking up his permanent residence here he had been attracted by the possibilities presented by this region and had bought an eighty-acre tract of timber land in the southeast part of Bloomer township, this county, and had cleared fourteen acres of the same before moving his family here. On this cleared tract he had erected a little board shanty, twelve by fourteen feet in dimensions, and there he installed his family, this unpretentious dwelling serving as a place of abode until he

presently built a somewhat more secure, but still humble, house of logs, in which the family made their home until he erected his present substantial farm house in 1882, and there he and his wife, ever a competent and valuable helpmate to him in the trying days of forest pioneering, have made their home ever since. The place is well improved, with its substantial house, barns and out-buildings, well-tilled fields and fine orchard and long has been regarded as one of the most home-like and attractive places thereabout.

To Uriah and Matilda J. (Bodel) Miner four children have been born, namely: Carrie, who married B. Franklin Ayres, of Allegan county, this state, and has three children, Orville, Ernest and Edna; James, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume; Marion, of Gratiot county, this state, who married Emma Reynolds and has three children, Mrs. Carrie Wheeler, Roy and Grace, and J. Perry, of Allegan county, this state, who married Bessie McAllister, upon whose death he married, secondly, Sarah, his deceased wife's sister and adopted a little girl named Mildred. Mr. and Mrs. Miner for many years have been earnest and influential members of the Seventh-Day Adventist church and their children have been reared in that faith.

A. E. BACON & SON.

"Maple Lawn Farm," an admirably kept place of two hundred and twenty acres, located one mile south of Sheridan, this county, is regarded as one of the veritable landmarks thereabout. The proprietors of "Maple Lawn Farm," Arthur E. Bacon & Son, are considered as properly representative of the progressive spirit of modern agriculturism and are recognized as among the substantial and enterprising citizens of Montcalm county. As breeders of fine stock they have made a great success and the live-stock products of their place are widely known and in constant demand.

Arthur E. Bacon was born on a farm near the center of Bushnell township, this county, on April 8, 1864, only son of Joseph H. and Susan D. (Weed) Bacon, both natives of Michigan, the former of whom was born in Lenawee county and the latter in Wayne county.

Joseph D. Bacon came to Montcalm county when ten years of age with his parents, who settled here at that time and here spent the remainder of their lives. He grew to manhood on the home farm and in 1861 enlisted in Company D, Ninth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for four years, or until the close of the war, receiving his honor-

able discharge in 1865. During a visit with friends in this county, Susan D. Weed, a charming young woman from Wayne county, was introduced to Joseph D. Bacon and it was not long thereafter until they were married. They went to housekeeping on a farm in the central section of Bushnell township and there resided until past middle age, when they retired to a comfortable home in Sheridan, where their last days were spent. They were members of the Methodist church and ever were recognized as among the leaders in all good works in their neighborhood, being held in very high esteem thereabout. Mr. Bacon was a member of Thomas Custer Post, Grand Army of the Republic, in the affairs of which he ever took a warm interest and was held in the most affectionate regard by his veteran comrades.

Arthur E. Bacon, the only child of this excellent couple, was reared on the home farm and remained there until his marriage, in 1883, at which time he bought a farm of forty acres in the neighborhood of his home and there made a new home. He presently added to his original holding an adjoining tract of forty acres and after farming for about ten years, sold the place and established the first newspaper at Fenwick, the *Advertiser*, which he conducted there for one year and six months, at the end of which time he moved the plant to Sheridan, and for ten years quite successfully conducted the *Advertiser* at that place. He then sold the newspaper and bought the farm on which he is now living and has been very successful in his farming operations. To the tract originally purchased, he has added from time to time as the requirements of his growing operations made necessary, until now the farm embraces two hundred and twenty acres of as fine land as lies in Montcalm county, the most of which is under excellent cultivation.

On December 13, 1883, Arthur E. Bacon was united in marriage to Allie E. Sherd, who was born in Lenawee county, this state, on March 28, 1862, daughter of William Sherd and wife, who came to this county when their daughter, Allie, was ten years of age, she therefore having received her education in the schools of this county. To this union two children have been born, Eleanor E., born on April 19, 1885, who married William H. Lavery, of Bushnell township, and has three children, a son and two daughters, Clare, born in September, 1905, and Lela, October 19, 1910, and Melvin C., February 13, 1888, who married Lulu M. Cleveland in May, 1906, and has two children, both daughters, Lora, born on October 11, 1910, and Edith, November 26, 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Bacon are members of the Methodist church, as are their children, and the family is held in high esteem throughout the Sheridan neighborhood.

Melvin C. Bacon was reared as a farmer and is now a half owner and partner with his father in operating "Maple Lawn Farm," under the firm name of A. E. Bacon & Son, a name now well known among breeders throughout this section of the state. They make a specialty of raising fine stock, with particular attention to Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Hampshire hogs, their fine herd of cattle being headed by "Hazelet Pontiac Korndy" 142673; their hogs by "Toby" 2519 and their sheep are pedigreed also. A. E. Bacon & Son also are the proprietors of the Sheridan poultry yards, where they make a specialty of purebred Plymouth Rocks, handling six varieties of this popular breed, with which they have made quite a "hit" at various poultry shows throughout the state.

Arthur E. Bacon is a Republican and gives proper attention to the political affairs of the county, his long newspaper experience having given him a thorough acquaintance with civic conditions in Montcalm county, but has never been included in the office-seeking class and has held no political offices. He is an earnest-minded, progressive and enterprising citizen, who enjoys the confidence and regard of all.

WILLIAM F. DAVIS.

William F. Davis, a well-known resident of the Carson City neighborhood, a progressive farmer of Bloomer township, this county, living one and one-half miles west and three-fourths of a mile north of Carson City, is a native of New York, having been born near the city of Batavia, that state, on July 4, 1857, son of Thomas D. and Caroline (Crawford) Davis, pioneers of Montcalm county, of whom further mention is made in a biographical sketch relating to the former, presented elsewhere in this volume.

William F. Davis was not two years of age when his parents came to this county and he consequently has been a witness of the wonderful development that has been made in this region within a single generation of mankind. He grew up amid the primitive conditions which the pioneers hereabout were compelled to face, attending the rude district school of his home neighborhood in the days of his youth and aided his father in the development of the home place. As a young man he spent a year and six months in Dakota, at the end of which time he returned home and in 1889 married a neighbor girl and engaged in farming on his own account. For about fifteen years after his marriage, Mr. Davis lived on a farm just south of the Grand

Trunk railroad, one and one-half miles west of Carson City, and then moved to the old homestead farm, just north of the railroad, where ever since has made his home. In addition to the eighty acres in that tract, which he now owns, he is also farming an adjoining eighty and is doing well, being regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood.

In the fall of 1889 William F. Davis was united in marriage to Frances R. Fuller, who was born in Steuben county, New York, daughter of Thomas F. and Amanda L. (Schuyler) Fuller, pioneers of this county, further mention of whom is made in a biographical sketch of Thomas F. Fuller, presented elsewhere in this volume. Frances Fuller came to this county with her parents about 1860 and spent her early years on a farm just south of the railroad from her present home. Her mother died in the spring of 1864, after which her father, with his two children, herself and her brother, Scott, returned to New York state, where they lived for about two years, at the end of which time they returned to their home in this county and later Frances Fuller lived for some time in South Dakota.

To William F. and Frances R. (Fuller) Davis two children have been born, Winnie Eula, who was graduated from the high school at Carson City, after which she attended Ferris Institute and is now teaching school in this county, and Ruth H., who is a student in the high school at Carson City. Mr. and Mrs. Davis and their daughters are members of the Methodist church and take a proper part in all the good works of the neighborhood in which they live, the family being held in high regard thereabout.

VIR C. ALLCHIN.

Vir C. Allchin, supervisor of Bushnell township, this county, is a well-known farmer living on rural route No. 1, out of Fenwick. He was born on the farm that he now owns, July 25, 1869, son of Edward and Elizabeth, (Curtis) Allchin, both natives of New York state, who, in the days of their youth, had come from New York to Michigan with their respective parents, the two families settling in Lenawee county. There Edward Allchin and Elizabeth Curtis were united in marriage, after which they came to this county, where they entered eighty acres of land in section 20, of Bushnell township, erected a log cabin and proceeded to make a home in the then wilderness. As they prospered they added to their original tract until they were the owners of a fine farm of one hundred acres, all of which was

brought under excellent cultivation and there they spent the remainder of their lives, being counted among the most substantial residents of that neighborhood, helpful in all good ways.

To Edward and Elizabeth (Curtis) Allchin nine children were born, namely: Burdette, deceased; Alice, wife of William Reimer, of Paoli, Ionia county, this state; Delfred, deceased; Mary, widow of George W. Eitelbuss, of Bushnell township, this county; Pearl, wife of William Edmunds, of Isabella county, this state; Lizzie, wife of George Reeves, of Stanton, this county; Vir C., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Verna, wife of R. E. Chapman, of Fenwick, this county, and Octa, wife of Orlando Galloup, of Bushnell.

Vir C. Allchin was reared on the home farm, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of his neighborhood, which he supplemented by a course in the schools at Greenville and Fenton, preparing himself for teaching, and for ten years taught school in the district schools of this county, continuing, however, to live on the home place, assisting his father in the operations of the farm, he being the only son at home, and finally gave over teaching and devoted his attention wholly to farming, in which he has been quite successful, having bought sixty acres across the road from the home place, which, added to the original home acres, gives him an excellent farm. Mr. Allchin not only is a good farmer, but an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, who has given his careful and intelligent thought to the general betterment of local conditions. In the work of the Grange he has long been active and is past master of his local grange. In 1903 he was elected supervisor of Bushnell township and, with the exception of a period of two years, has held that office ever since, his services in that connection having been of large value to the public.

On September 30, 1891, Vir C. Allchin was united in marriage to Ida G. Comstock, daughter of William H. and Catherine (Dodson) Comstock, and to this union four children have been born, Dewey C., born on April 27, 1898, a student in the Sheridan high school; Catherine, May 21, 1900; Elizabeth, April 14, 1903, and Cecil, October 3, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Allchin are active participants in the social life of their community and are quite popular with their many friends thereabout.

Mr. Allchin is a Republican and in addition to his long service as supervisor has also served the township in the capacity of clerk. He is the present noble grand of the Fenwick lodge of the Odd Fellows and is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, taking much interest in the workings of these lodges, as well as in his work in the Grange, and is held in high regard by all.

MRS. MINA PECK.

Mrs. Mina Peck, owner of "Pleasant View Farm," one-half mile west of Pierson, this county, widow of the late Ford S. Peck, for years one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of that neighborhood, is a native of Michigan, having been born in the neighboring county of Kent on January 26, 1857, daughter of Horatio and Sarah (Riley) Webster, the former a native of New York state and the latter a native of England.

Horatio Webster was a railroad locomotive engineer, who had a run into Detroit, in which city he married Sarah Riley who had come to the United States from England with her parents when she was five years old, the family settling in Detroit, where she grew to womanhood and where she married. Later Horatio Webster and his family settled at Paris, in Mecosta county. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are still living, as follow: Mary, a spinster; Charles, a painter, living at Atlanta, Georgia; George, a farmer, living near Deighton, this state; Mina, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Nellie, who married Fred Peck; Frank, who is living in northern Michigan, and Ida, who is the wife of John Grice.

Mina Webster was reared in Grand Rapids and received an excellent education in the schools of that city. On January 26, 1878, she married Ford S. Peck, who was born in the state of New York in 1853 and whose parents came to Michigan when he was a child, settling in Pierson township, becoming substantial residents of that community, and it was there that Ford Peck grew to manhood, reared on the farm and receiving his education in the district school of that neighborhood. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Peck located on the old Peck homestead, which Mr. Peck later purchased, a fine farm of eighty acres, which is now owned by his widow and which is very appropriately known throughout that section of the county as "Pleasant View Farm."

Ford S. Peck was a Republican and ever took an earnest part in the civic affairs of the community, having been clerk of the township for seven years. He was an earnest Methodist, one of the leaders in the local church, to the interests of which his father also had been warmly devoted, and he and his wife were regarded as among the leaders in all good works thereabout, Mrs. Peck still retaining her active interest in all movements designed to advance the cause of good citizenship and better morals in her community. Mr. Peck died on May 13, 1912, and was widely mourned throughout

that neighborhood, for he was a man who had done well his part in all the relations of life and had made a good name in the community. To Mr. and Mrs. Peck but two children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The survivor, Arthur E. Peck, who was born on August 3, 1879, was graduated from the high school at Pierson, after which he entered the commercial college at Grand Rapids and upon completing the course there began teaching school. He married Ruby Cole and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Marian, born in December, 1910.

MARSHALL D. SHERD.

"Sunny Slope Farm," a well-kept tract of productive land, eighty acres in extent, on rural route No. 1, lying three and one-half miles east and three miles south of Sheridan, in this county, is owned by Marshall D. Sherd, who has been a resident of Montcalm county since he was nine years of age.

Marshall D. Sherd was born in Lenawee county, this state, on March 27, 1861, son of William and Eliza (Lewis) Sherd, the former of whom was born in New York state and the latter in Sandusky county, Ohio, whose respective parents were among the pioneer settlers in Lenawee county. Following their marriage, William and Eliza Sherd, for some years, lived on a farm in Lenawee county, but in 1870 came to this county and made their home in Bushnell township. Mrs. Sherd died on the home farm in that township in June, 1914; and Mr. Sherd is still living, one of the best-known residents of that neighborhood. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are still living, as follow: Estella, wife of Charles Soles; Marshall D., the subject of this sketch; Laverne, a farmer of Bushnell township, this county, and Alzada, wife of A. E. Bacon.

Having been but nine years of age when he came to Montcalm county with his parents, Marshall D. Sherd has lived here practically all his life. He received his education in the district schools of Bushnell township and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age, after which he went to farming on his own account. The next year he was married and he and his wife went to housekeeping, and in 1893 they moved to "Sunny Slope Farm" and have prospered, being now considered quite well circumstanced.

On January 17, 1883, Marshall D. Sherd was united in marriage to Corrinna Hanchett, who was born in Bushnell township on February 17.

1862, daughter of Joseph and Angeline (Husker) Hanchett, prominent residents of that township, and to this union five children have been born, all sons, namely: Berkeley H., born on February 9, 1884; Mahlon J., January 26, 1886; Leslie M., July 31, 1894; Merrit W., March 31, 1899, and Irving D., September 2, 1901. Of these children, Berkeley married Lela C. Warne and they have one child, Helen; Mahlon married Olive Thomas and they have four children, Ruth, Irene, Doris and Kate; Leslie married Mildred Hoyt and lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherd are quiet, unassuming people, who take a proper part in the social affairs of their neighborhood and are held in high regard. Mr. Sherd is a Republican and for years has given close attention to the political affairs of the county, and has served as treasurer of Bushnell township. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and takes much interest in the affairs of that popular order.

CHARLES M. WHITE.

Charles M. White, a native of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and the son of LaRoy and Mary Jane (Maccomber) White, was born on June 9, 1863.

LaRoy White was born in the state of New York and came with his father when a young man of eighteen years to Michigan. They first located near Ypsilanti, but remained there but a short time, when they came to Bushnell township and entered land from the government and here John B. White, the father of LaRoy, made his home until his death.

Mary Jane Maccomber was born in Rochester, New York. Her mother died when she was born and her father was killed while working as a bridge builder. Some time later she was adopted by another family and moved to Lenawee county, Michigan, with them when but seven years of age. The adopted parents made their home there until the time of their death, some years later. LaRoy White and Mary Jane Maccomber became acquainted in Lenawee county and were married there. Mr. White was cutting wood in the county at the time and selling it at Ypsilanti, where the couple took up their residence soon after their marriage. Their residence there was of short duration and they came to Montcalm county, where they entered forty acres of land, in section 23, Bushnell township. Here they made their home for the next eight years, when they came to the farm where they made their

home until their death, where Charles M. White now lives, Mr. White having died on March 19, 1901, and Mrs. White on January 24, 1906. LaRoy White and wife were the parents of four children: Eugene, deceased; William, Millie, deceased, and Charles M.

Charles M. White lived at home, where he assisted on the farm and received his education in the common schools of his county, until at the age of twenty-one, he left home and for two years was engaged in various kinds of work. He then returned home and was married to Lillian Fuller, on November 20, 1885. Mrs. White was the daughter of William and Alwilda (Jackson) Fuller, of Sheridan, Michigan. After his marriage, Mr. White bought thirty acres of land of the old home place, and at the death of his mother he purchased the other thirty acres which constitutes his present farm.

Mr. and Mrs. White are the parents of seven children: An infant who died; Arthur Clay, of Sheridan; Alwilda, the wife of Ray Haysmer, of Lansing; Alger, at home; Victor, at school in Sheridan; Arlie, deceased, and Bernice, at home.

Fraternally, Mr. White is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. He is a member of the Free Baptist church, and politically he is an advocate of the principals of the Republican party, though he is not an office seeker, he has for years been a director of his school district and for the past nine years has been its treasurer.

E. L. CRANDALL.

E. L. Crandall, the son of Stephen and Eliza (Fuller) Crandall, was born in Alfred, Allegany county, New York, on November 16, 1865.

Stephen and Eliza Crandall, the parents of E. L. Crandall, were natives of New York and came to Montcalm county in an early day, when it was very sparsely settled. Mr. Crandall came with the intention of entering the lumber and shingle business. He at once entered land and began preparation to make this his permanent home. His was the first frame house erected in Sheridan and the place has changed hands but a few times.

But few of the Crandall family settled west of New York, but the Fuller family came to Michigan soon after the settlement here of Stephen Crandall. The Crandalls were farmers in New York and came to their western home when E. L. was but a babe, three months old. They resided in

Sheridan for three years, from 1866 to 1869, where Mr. Crandall was engaged in teaming and the lumber and shingle business. At that time the family came to Bushnell township, where Mr. Crandall bought eighty acres of land and here the family made their home for many years. Since his retirement from active work, Mr. Crandall has lived in Sheridan and later in Grand Rapids, where he still resides. Mrs. Crandall died in 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Crandall were the parents of six children, all of whom are living: Hattie is the wife of Fred Regis and lives in Evergreen township; Fred lives in Bushnell township; E. L., the subject of this sketch; Frank, of Detroit; Emma, the widow of Raymond Mabie, lives in Detroit, and Elmer, a salesman who makes his home in Mississippi.

E. L. Crandall grew to manhood on the home farm and received his education in the common schools of the township. He worked for others until after his marriage, on October 22, 1890, to Clara Galloup, the daughter of A. P. and Betsey (Bennett) Galloup.

A. P. Galloup settled in Ohio as a young man of twenty-five years, and there met and married Betsey Bennett. During their residence in Ohio three children were born to them. Later they moved to Ionia county, where they made their home for one year, after which they settled on a farm in Montcalm county, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children: Zillah, the wife of George Shoop; Noah; Miranda, the wife of George Taylor; Calfurnia, deceased, was the wife of Walter Kingsbury; Frances, deceased, was the wife of Hiram Taylor; Louis B.; Fenton; Sherman, deceased, and Clara, the wife of E. L. Crandall.

After his marriage, Mr. Crandall settled a short distance west of his present home. He now owns eighty acres of well-improved land, with substantial and modern buildings, located in Bushnell township, three miles southeast of Sheridan. Mr. and Mrs. Crandall are the parents of the following children: Gar is a graduate of the Sheridan high school and is at present attending the Ferris Institute at Big Rapids; Zelma, who died at the age of four; Theresa, at home, and attending the district school, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Crandall and his family are active and influential members of the Baptist church of Bushnell township, and Mr. Crandall is a member of the official board and takes much interest in the administration of the church. Politically, Mr. Crandall is a member of the Republican party and has been an overseer and a member of the board of review. He has also served as moderator for his school district for a number of years.

JAMES H. VERPLANCK.

James H. Verplanck, successful farmer and stock raiser, and a citizen prominent in the affairs of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Cayuga county, New York, on April 5, 1851, the son of Andrew and Betsy (Jewell) Verplanck, the former of Dutch descent and a representative of the famous New York state Verplanck family, the latter of American and Irish descent, she having been the daughter of Isaac and Betsy (O'Brien) Jewell.

James H. Verplanck moved to Washtenaw county, Michigan, and located with his mother in Lyons township, where he lived until 1859, and then, his mother having died, he returned to New York state and lived with an aunt for some years. When about fifteen years of age, in 1866, James H. Verplanck again came to Michigan and lived with his father in Calhoun county for about two years and then went back to New York state, where he made his home until twenty-one years of age, engaging in general farm work during this time. About 1872 Mr. Verplanck came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and for the next nine years engaged in farming and in lumber work, devoting the greater part of his time as a lumberman to the running of logs down the streams of his locality. In 1882 James H. Verplanck, having previously married, bought a farm of eighty acres in Montcalm township, Montcalm county, where Mr. Verplanck lived as a farmer and raiser of purebred Shorthorn cattle until 1910, when he purchased his present farm of two hundred and fifty-five acres in Bushnell township, which is known as the "Fair Plains Stock Farm." On his modern and well-equipped farm, Mr. Verplanck now is engaged with notable success as a farmer, together with the raising of large numbers of high-grade Percheron horses and purebred cattle.

On October 19, 1881, James H. Verplanck was married to Mary Jeanette Despelder, a daughter of Peter and Dena (Debree) Despelder, well-known people of Montcalm county. To the marriage of James H. and Mary Jeanette Verplanck were born two children, Edna and Rudolph. Edna, on December 8, 1905, was married to Victor L. Green, a farmer living near Greenville, in Montcalm township, and has one son, James Edwin, seven years old. Rudolph was married on September 3, 1912, to Blanche Pitcher, of Sheridan, and has one child, born on December 25, 1915, named Jasper Garrett. On December 8, 1899, Mary Jeanette, the wife of James H. Verplanck, died, and on February 20, 1902, Mr. Verplanck was married, sec-

ondly, to Audrianna Despelder, a sister of his deceased wife. To this marriage no children have been born. Mr. Verplanck and his family are members of the Congregational church, being active in the work and worship of this denomination in Montcalm county.

James H. Verplanck has been active in the political and official affairs of Montcalm county, having served as clerk of Montcalm township for two years, and in the year 1890 was engaged in the taking of the federal census, Mr. Verplanck is one of the highly respected citizens of Montcalm county, his activity for general welfare and improvement having given him a place among the leaders of the community.

PROF. LEWIS B. GALLOW.

Prof. Lewis B. Galloup, a farmer and music teacher living on rural route No. 4, Sheridan, Michigan, is the proprietor of "Pioneer Ranch," consisting of one hundred acres of land, situated two miles east of the town of Sheridan. He was born on March 6, 1881, on the land mentioned, the son of A. P. and Betsey (Bennett) Galloup. His father was a native of New York state and his mother of the state of Ohio. They were married in Ohio and after that event came to Michigan, about the year 1851, and lived near Lyons, Michigan, for one year, and then came to Montcalm county and settled in Bushnell township, where they lived until his death. A. P. Galloup first entered eighty acres of land under the government homestead law, and later forty additional acres, upon which he built a home. He was active in local politics; in religion a Baptist. They had nine children, five of whom are yet living, of these, Noah is a farmer; Zillah is the widow of George Shoop; Lewis B. and Finton live in Bushnell township; Clara is the wife of Edward Crandall.

Lewis B. Galloup was reared on the farm and attended the common schools. He also took a course in instrumental music and became a music teacher. He organized classes and taught for thirty years. He married Rhoda Williams and of their two children one died in infancy and the other, R. B. Galloup, seventeen years of age, lives at home with his father.

Rhoda Williams was born on May 9, 1874, in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, daughter of Charles and Caroline Jane (Blanchard) Williams, both of whom were born in Chautauqua county, New York, and were there married and later moved to Michigan and settled on a farm in Bloomer town-

ship, near Butternut, where they were pioneers. They had two children, Lee and Rhoda; Lee lives with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are now living in Evergreen township, Montcalm county. Mr. Williams served three years in the Ninth New York Cavalry in the Civil War.

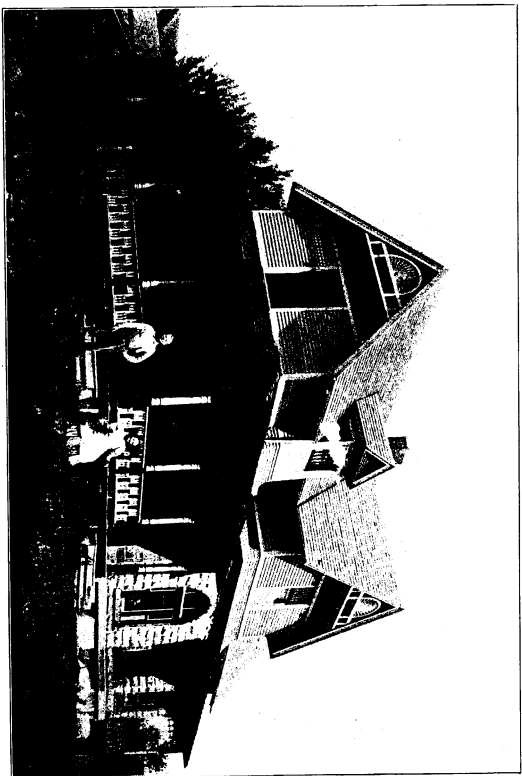
In religion Prof. L. B. Galloup is a Republican and is a member of the Baptist church. Mrs. Galloup belongs to the Seventh-Day Adventist church. Professor Galloup has for years been recognized as a proficient teacher of music and has taught not only in this but in other counties, giving individual instruction, specializing in instrumental music.

ADELBERT A. HERRICK.

Adelbert A. Herrick, successful farmer, extensive stock raiser, and man prominent in the affairs of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, on July 6, 1860, a son of Nathan and Mary J. (Dailey) Herrick, both of whom were born in Washtenaw county.

Following his marriage, in his native country, Nathan Herrick moved to Ingham county, Michigan, where he lived for two years and then returned to Washtenaw county, which he made his home until the year 1875, when he moved to Bushnell township, Montcalm county. Nathan Herrick was in his day a noted veterinary surgeon and practiced that profession until his death. While he was the owner and manager of a farm he devoted the major portion of his time to his profession. He also taught many students, and many capable veterinarians in this section of the country received their instruction from Mr. Herrick. Nathan and Mary J. Herrick were the parents of the following children: Charles R., Adelbert A., Rose, James E., Anna J., Walter, and Dewey, who died when eight years old.

Adelbert A. Herrick received his early education in the common schools of his community, and at the schools of Ithaca, Gratiot county, and Palo, Ionia county, also attending the Palo high school. After his school days, Mr. Herrick was employed in a general store and as a grain buyer for his brother Charles, following this line of work for two and one-half years. Later, Adelbert A. Herrick having married, he and his brother James bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, which was the old homestead, which Mr. Herrick has greatly improved and to which he has added land at various times until now he is



RESIDENCE OF ADELBERT A. HERRICK.

the owner of more than five hundred acres of land, which he cultivates as a general farmer and where he engages in the raising of Percheron horses and other good grade live stock. The farm of Adelbert A. Herrick is one of the best improved of the entire community, he having erected a modern fifteen-room house, constructed of fine sandstone, and has built a commodious and convenient barn, together with other buildings, all of which are well cared for. The farm of Mr. Herrick is known as the "Prairie Creek Stock Farm."

Adelbert A. Herrick was married to Fannie Sanders, who died three years after their marriage, and six years later Mr. Herrick was married, secondly, to Clara Chapman, who came to Montcalm county when she was an infant, and after the completion of her education was a school teacher for some years. Mr. Herrick and his wife are members of the Baptist church, of Palo, Ionia county, Adelbert A. Herrick having been a member of this church since 1886, during this time he having been a deacon for many years and for some time was superintendent of the Sunday school.

In political life, Adelbert A. Herrick has been active, having served as township treasurer for two terms. As a business man, Mr. Herrick is a stockholder in different enterprises, and is also a property owner in Detroit, Michigan, as well as being a man who has been interested in the lumber business locally.

FRED L. DEAN.

Among the prominent and valued citizens of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Fred L. Dean, farmer, lecturer on scientific agriculture, former teacher and educator, and man prominent in the affairs of Montcalm county, who was born in Bushnell township, on February 22, 1860, the son of George L. and Sarah (Holland) Dean.

George L. Dean, who was born in Cayuga county, New York, a son of Charles Dean and wife, came to Michigan, when a young man and made his home in this state, living at Hudson until 1865, when he moved to Montcalm county and located in section 9, Bushnell township, where he operated a mill for some time and then engaged in general farming on fifty-two acres of land. George L. Dean was first married to Nellie Underhill, who died shortly following their removal to Montcalm county. Some years later Mr. Dean was married, secondly, to Sarah Holland, and to this marriage were

born three children: Fred L., of this sketch; Don W., a successful farmer of Ionia county, and Diz W., a hardware dealer, of McBride.

Fred L. Dean received his elementary education in the public schools of Bushnell township, after which he attended and graduated from the Stanton high school and then became a student at the Mt. Pleasant Normal School for some time. Later, Mr. Dean engaged in the profession of a school teacher, following the duties of this work until 1907, during this time having taught in various schools throughout Montcalm county and the vicinity. About the year 1907 Fred L. Dean purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located in Bushnell township, where he has since made his home and where he now engages in general farming and in the raising of purebred Holstein cattle, his stock in this line being of the best to be found in the community. In addition to his other farm activities, Fred L. Dean engages in the dairy business and in the conduct of state institute work, the farm of Mr. Dean being known as the "Agricultural Development Farm." Fred L. Dean has been notably successful as a scientific farmer and as a student of advanced methods in agriculture, his knowledge along this line resulting in his being called to various places throughout Michigan and neighboring states for the purpose of giving lectures and instruction on agricultural methods and progress. As president of the Montcalm Farmers Institute Society, Mr. Dean is taking a leading part in the development of the resources of this county, and in the raising of agricultural standards and results.

On April 6, 1893, Fred L. Dean was married to Ida M. Hare, who was a well-known school teacher of Montcalm county, she being the daughter of Frank D. Hare and wife, prominent people of Ferris township. To the marriage of Fred L. and Ida M. Dean have been born three children: Lela, who was educated in the grade schools and later at the Sheridan high school, afterward becoming a school teacher, until her marriage to Floyd Robinson, of Bushnell township; Nina, who was graduated from the Sheridan high school and the county normal school at Stanton, she now being a teacher in the schools of Bushnell township, and George F., who now is a student of the Sheridan high school. Mrs. Dean is an active member of the Baptist church and takes a leading part in the worship and the other efforts of this denomination, in Bushnell township.

Fred L. Dean is known for his efforts as a social worker and for his interest in the improvement of general conditions in Montcalm county, and the vicinity, he now being a member of the executive committee of the Mont-

calm County Anti-Saloon League, and a man who is especially active in temperance circles. Mrs. Dean is president of the Bushnell township Woman's Christian Temperance Union and co-operates with her husband in the advancement of the temperance cause in this community.

In politics, Fred L. Dean is a Democrat and while he has taken no especial part in the party activity, he is known as a man who is active and influential in matters pertaining to party welfare and progress. Mr. Dean is one of the esteemed and honored men of Montcalm county, his unselfish and clean life, together with his efforts for the promotion of the general welfare in social, political and agricultural matters, having given him a place of note among the citizens of Montcalm and surrounding counties.

CHANCELLOR E. HIGBEE.

Foremost in the agricultural field of Montcalm county is Chancellor Higbee, who for several years, has devoted his entire attention to stock raising and general farming. As a descendant of a family of pioneer farmers it is only natural that the inherent traits of his nature should have won for him a place of prominence in the field of endeavor which he has chosen. His life has been one of consecutive industry and the prosperity now enjoyed by him its legitimate reward. Chancellor Edward Higbee is a native of Ionia county, Michigan, having been born there on the 28th of June, 1852. He is the son of Benjamin and Laura Maria (Goodwin) Higbee, both of whom were born in the state of New York, the former in Broome county and the latter in Steuben, Oneida county. Laura M. Goodwin, who was born on the 23rd of February, 1827, moved to Ionia county in 1840 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Goodwin, who were among the first settlers to locate in that county, outside the city of Ionia, moving there in 1838. Mr. Goodwin experienced during his life in the wilderness all the incidents of a pioneer life. In order to reach Detroit in those days he was obliged to follow blazed trails with a team of oxen and to ford the rivers that crossed the path so that the journey lasted several days. Laura M. Goodwin, who was reared amid these scenes of pioneer life, profited by the experiences of her girlhood, the hardships of which only tended to strengthen her character. On July 4, 1841, the marriage of Laura Goodwin to Benjamin Higbee took place.

The father of the subject of this sketch was born on the 15th of Novem-

ber, 1818, and moved to Ionia county in 1838, where he settled for a time in the village of Ionia. During the first period of his stay in this locality he clerked in the first hotel of Ionia and later became interested in the Ashur pottery plant which was the first one of its kind in that community. After his marriage, Mr. Higbee moved to section 36, of Orleans township, where his father owned a large farm. The Higbee estate was finally divided among the three brothers of the family, and Benjamin Higbee took up his residence on the home farm. He cleared the timber and developed the farm conditions in a manner deserving of the highest praise of the community. After sixty-seven years of wedded life, Mr. Higbee passed away on the 1st of April, 1908, and his wife, who had proved a devoted companion, died one month later. Mr. Higbee was always ardent in his support of the Prohibitional party and worked untiringly for its extension. He was also a valuable member of the Baptist church. At one time Mr. Higbee was employed by the Ionia, Montcalm and Clinton Insurance Company.

The subject of this sketch was reared to the duties of farm life from an early age and upon reaching the age of manhood bought part of his father's estate which he used for general farming. Later he bought a part of his uncle's farm. The entire farm covered one hundred and fifty-two acres of land in Orleans township, and twenty acres in Eastern township. Mr. Higbee is familiar with every branch of agriculture and is especially interested in stock buying and shipping.

In March, 1910, Mr. Higbee came to Butternut for permanent residence, where he owns one hundred and seven acres. The residence at Butternut, belonging to Mr. Higbee, was entirely destroyed by fire, December 26, 1914, but has since been replaced by a beautiful brick bungalow of the most modern design and construction. The land surrounding the home has proved to be a valuable investment and the subject of this sketch has not only realized large sums from the sale of town lots which were in Butternut, but also from wheat and grain.

Mr. Higbee is a man of the highest public spirit but has never sought to give this loyalty expression in the seeking of a public office. He has a popular standing in the community and is looked upon as a man of large and substantial views. For three terms he held the office of justice of the peace in Orleans township.

On the 1st of January, 1875, Chancellor E. Higbee was married to Ida Bishop, a native of Jackson, and the daughter of Orlando and Eliza (Wilcox) Grover. When Mrs. Higbee was three years old her father died and

she was adopted by Noah Bishop and his wife who resided in Easton township, Ionia county.

To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Higbee the following children have been born: Blanche married Herman Bluemly and lives in Butternut, where her husband is interested in the stock business with Mr. Higbee, and they have one son, Corris Chancellor; Grace, who is the wife of Dr. W. A. Hart, makes her home in Lapeer and has one daughter, Marjorie.

Mr. and Mrs. Higbee hold membership in the Baptist church, where they are looked upon as benefactors as well as ardent workers. In fraternal affairs Mr. Higbee is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Maccabees, and both he and his wife are affiliated with the Grange.

ORLAND W. GALLOWAY.

Orland W. Galloup, well-known farmer and prominent citizen of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Bushnell township, this county, on November 10, 1873, the son of N. B. and Matilda (Taylor) Galloup, natives of Ohio and of Canada, respectively.

N. B. Galloup came to Michigan with his father, Austin P. Galloup, and located in Ionia county, where they lived for a short time and then came to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, at which place the elder Galloup homesteaded eighty acres of land, which he cultivated for some time, after which he disposed of his homestead and moved to another farm located nearby, where A. P. Galloup lived until after the death of his wife and then spent the remainder of his days among his children in Bushnell township. N. B. Galloup was married to Matilda Taylor, of Canada, a daughter of Hiram Taylor and wife, Matilda having come to Michigan, where she lived with her brothers and sisters until her marriage. N. B. and Matilda Galloup were the parents of two children, Orland W. and Jesse J., the latter living at home.

Orland W. Galloup was reared on the home farm and was educated in the schools of Montcalm county, securing the greater part of a high school education, after which he became a farmer, working on the home place until after his marriage, when he was engaged as a farm helper on a neighboring farm for about two years, and then bought forty acres of farm land in December, 1906, which he has cultivated, together with a rented farm, since that time. Orland W. Galloup now is engaged in general farming and

stock raising on his farm of eighty acres, located near Sheridan, in Bushnell township.

On May 10, 1899, Orland W. Galloup was married to Octa Allchin, a daughter of Edward Allchin and wife. Orland W. and Octa Galloup are the parents of one child, Clare A., who now is a student of the Sheridan high school. Mr. Galloup and his family are members of the Free Baptist church, in Bushnell township, a congregation which Mr. Galloup has served as a deacon as well as a member of the church board.

In the official life of the community, Orland W. Galloup has been active, having served Bushnell township as a justice of the peace and as moderator of the township school board. In politics, Mr. Galloup is an ardent Republican.

Fraternally, Orland W. Galloup is a prominent member of Vickeryville Lodge No. 756, Knights of the Maccabees, and he is a leading member of the Grange, in Bushnell township.

ALBERT A. RICHARDSON.

Albert A. Richardson has been a resident of Bloomer township, this county, for over sixty years. He was born on December 10, 1842, in Cornish, New Hampshire. He is the son of Ariel K. and Mary (Armstrong) Richardson, the former of whom was a native of New Hampshire and the latter of Vermont. The Richardsons came to Montcalm county as early as 1855 and settled in Bloomer township, which was in the first stage of its agricultural development. The settlers were few and the land was covered with timber and wild underbrush. Mr. Richardson built a cabin on the northwest corner of the cross roads at Bloomer Center and devoted the remainder of his life to the occupation of farming. For a number of years he filled the position of postmaster at Bloomer Center. Mr. Richardson passed away in January, 1900, and his wife died in 1886. The couple reared the following children: Albert A., the subject of this sketch; Anna, Ella and Victoria.

Albert A. Richardson spent his boyhood days on the old Richardson farm in Bloomer township and upon reaching the age of manhood was obliged to lay aside his farm work and answer the call for volunteers to serve in the Civil War. On November 9, 1861, he enlisted in the First Regiment, United States Sharpshooters, and remained in the service a year, when, owing

to physical disability, he was forced to resign from active service. He was discharged on October 29, 1862, and for the six months following was unable to leave his home owing to poor health.

After his return to Bloomer township the subject of this sketch bought forty acres of land, which now forms a part of the Cliffe farm. After residing on this place for five years he sold out to Mr. Cliffe and bought the farm where he now resides in section 20, which contains one hundred and ninety acres. For several years during his residence on this farm he served as highway commissioner.

On December 18, 1864, Albert Richardson was united in marriage to Jane Louks, a native of Norfolk county, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of William H. and Julia Ann (Burger) Louks. William Louks, who was born in Vermont, came with his family, in the fall of 1860, to Montcalm county, where he settled on a farm one and one-half miles south of Carson City. On the 18th of November, 1886, Mr. Louks passed away, and in November of the following year Mrs. Louks, who was a native of Canada, passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson became the parents of two children, Asa, who follows the occupation of a farmer in Virginia, and Leon who is interested in dairy farming, also in Virginia. Mr. Richardson has won the esteem of the members of his community for the manner in which he has conducted the public affairs in which he has been interested and for the high ideals of citizenship to which he has lived. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

H. E. HEISLER.

H. E. Heisler, well-known farmer and prominent citizen of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, on February 9, 1863, a son of D. W. and Catherine (McDonald) Heisler, natives of Mahoning county and of Jefferson county, Ohio, respectively.

After his marriage D. W. Heisler and his wife came to Michigan from their home in Ohio, in 1866, and located on a farm in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, where the elder Heisler engaged in farming and where he operated the first saw-mill of the community for many years. D. W. Heisler was a prominent man of Bushnell township, having served as justice of the peace for twenty-seven years, during which time he was active and influential in the affairs of the Republican party in this community. The elder Heisler was a member of the Masons. D. W. and Catherine Heisler were the par-

ents of four children, three of whom are living: Charles, a farmer of New Haven township, Gratiot county; H. E., the subject of this sketch, and Emma, the wife of George Low, of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

H. E. Heisler received his education in the public schools of Montcalm county, after which he became a farmer, working on the home place for some years and then he secured the home farm, where he now is successfully engaged in the cultivation of eighty acres, thirty acres of which is pasture and the rest improved and highly productive soil.

On January 4, 1894, H. E. Heisler was married to Eva Wellwood, who was born in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Wellwood, of Bloomer township.

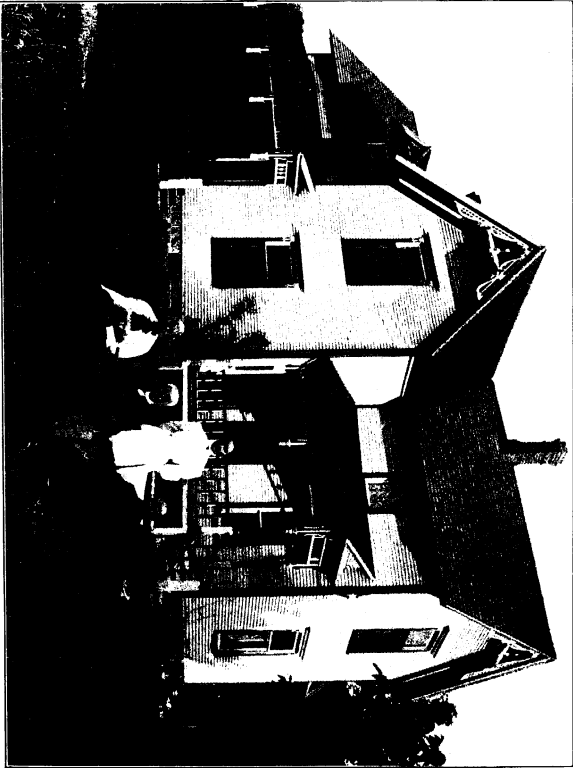
H. E. Heisler is a member of Palo Lodge No. 203, Free and Accepted Masons, and together with his wife Mr. Heisler is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. In politics, H. E. Heisler is a Republican and has served his township as treasurer. Mr. Heisler is one of the highly respected and esteemed men of Bushnell township.

CHARLES HAWLEY.

Among the successful farmers and stock raisers of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Charles Hawley, who was born in Rochester, New York, on March 1, 1845, a son of Charles and Eliza (Darling) Hawley, natives of Genesee county, New York.

Charles Hawley, Sr., after his marriage in New York state, came to Michigan, about 1855, and located at the town of Liberty, Jackson county, where he lived for some time and then moved to Iowa, living there for about one year, after which he returned to Michigan, and lived for the remainder of his days in Ronald township, Ionia county, where he was engaged in general farming on one hundred and sixty acres of land. Charles Hawley, Sr., was a prominent citizen of his community, having served for many years as justice of the peace, as well as being a man who, together with his wife, was active in the work and worship of the Baptist church, at Palo, Ionia county. Charles and Eliza Hawley were the parents of nine children, seven of whom survive, Charlotte, Susan, Lida, Marion, Charles, Byron and Asa.

Charles Hawley, the subject of this sketch, received his limited education in the common schools of Ionia county, Michigan, after which he



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES HAWLEY.

became a farmer, working on the home farm until thirty-one years of age when Mr. Hawley, having married, moved to Bushville township, Montcalm county, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, located south of the town of Sheridan, a place which he has improved until it is one of the best farms of the county, and on which he now is engaged in general farming and in the raising of Durham cattle and fine horses. The well-improved, modernly equipped and conveniently arranged farm of Mr. Hawley is known as "Maple Ridge Stock Farm."

On July 4, 1872, Charles Hawley was married to Mahala Manier, of Ionia county. In the home of Charles and Mahala Hawley is one adopted daughter, Mabel.

In politics, Mr. Hawley is a Republican, and although he has not aspired to public office, he has filled his place well and is known as a man who acts intelligently in political matters and as a citizen who is ready at all times to do his part in the promotion of the good citizenship.

REV. NORMAN L. OTIS.

One of the best-known ministers of Montcalm county is Rev. Norman L. Otis, a native of Newfane township, Niagara county, New York, where he was born on April 12, 1834. His father, Chester Otis, who was born in Canada, was of Scotch-Irish extraction, and his mother, who was Phoebe Wright before her marriage, was born in Vermont.

When Norman L. Otis was five years old his parents moved to Michigan and located in Washtenaw county, in Sharon township. Later they settled near Albion, where Norman Otis grew to manhood. Norman L. Otis gained his preliminary education in the public schools of Washtenaw county, and thereafter completed a course in Albion College. A youth of deep spirituality and true earnestness, he early decided to prepare himself for the duties of the ministry and at the age of twenty-one preached his first sermon in the Methodist church in the Hastings circuit. His ministrations in this community were broken suddenly by the outbreak of the Civil War, and the subject of this sketch joined the army in 1862. His wife at this time became seriously ill and Mr. Otis was given permission to remain at home for a short while, during which time his wife passed away. After the death of his wife Mr. Otis returned to his duties in the army and was commissioned chaplain of the Eighth Michigan Cavalry with which he remained

until the close of the war. After the war Mr. Otis was unable to resume his charge as pastor and spent several years in regaining his health. In 1870 he assumed a position in the Congregational church which led him to Michigan where he had charge of the pastorate of the churches at Hubbardston and Carson City. After four years spent in this community he went to Ithica where he remained four years. He then went to Crystal where he organized a church and where he preached for ten years with the greatest success and popularity. After Mr. Otis moved to the farm where he now resides, in the southwestern part of Bloomer township, he took charge of the church at Butternut for four years. Since passing his eightieth birthday he has resigned from active work, but is still able to attend services and assist at formal meetings. Mr. Otis never has sought public offices, but owing to his popularity was chosen justice of the peace, an office he has held for twenty-four years with the highest praise of the people of the community in which he resides.

At the age of twenty-two years, Norman L. Otis married Elizabeth Morgan, who was born and reared near Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and who came to America with her parents, who settled near Akron, Ohio. Later the family moved to Barry county, Michigan, when that section of the state was a wilderness. Three sons were born to the union of the Reverend and Mrs. Otis, as follow: Frederick Bliss, who died at the age of twenty-six while attending the Yale Divinity School; Clark, who resides in Frankfort, Michigan, where he has a large fruit farm and is a well known horticulturist, and a son who died in infancy. Clark Otis has a family of four children, Florence, Harry, Walter and Arthur. Mrs. Elizabeth Otis died in 1862.

The Rev. Norman Otis was married, secondly, in 1864, in Allegan, to Ann Merrill Copp, the daughter of Dr. J. M. Copp, a physician who moved to Allegan county, Michigan, from western New York. One daughter was born to the subject of this sketch by his second marriage, L. Grace, who attended college and took her Bachelor of Arts degree, and became the wife of Joseph L. Harter, who took the degree of Master of Laws at Ann Arbor, and who is now trustee, secretary and treasurer of Olivet College, at Olivet, Michigan.

Rev. Norman L. Otis is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for many years has been chaplain of the post at Carson City. He is known in this part of the state as a valuable contributor to magazines and newspapers of articles on church history and war items. For a number of years he acted as correspondent for a newspaper where his writings, owing to their pleasing style and accuracy of description, found welcome.

J. FRANK ISHAM.

Among the settlers of Montcalm county who have seen the development of this section of the state is J. Frank Isham, who has been a resident of Bloomer township for almost fifty years. He was born on June 23, 1866, in Bloomer township, and is the son of Alfred R. and Mary (Carey) Isham. Alfred Isham was a native of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan, and was the son of A. D. Isham, who, with his wife, came to this part of the country in the early pioneer days. While their son, Alfred, was still a boy Mr. and Mrs. Isham returned to their native state of New York where they remained until 1855, when they returned to Montcalm county and settled in the north-western part of Bloomer township. The land upon which they settled was obtained by them through a government grant, a copy of which is still in the hands of the subject of this sketch. At the time of granting the claim the small sum of fifty cents an acre was paid by Mr. Isham in order to gain possession of the homestead. All the privations of early pioneer life were endured by A. D. Isham and his wife. There were no roads save those which had been chopped by hand through the forests, and the most valuable beast of burden was the ox which drew the wagon of provisions to the nearest town. Mr. and Mrs. Isham remained on the homestead until their death.

Although Alfred R. Isham devoted much of his time to general farming he was also interested in many other lines of activity. In partnership with Charles Cross he built a cheese factory in 1890, and during the same year he erected a brick store in Butternut. He always took an active interest in things pertaining to civic welfare and did much for the community in which he lived. At the time of his death he was owner of two hundred and ten acres of land. For a time he served as supervisor of the township. His death occurred on January 23, 1911, and his wife passed away on July 22, 1909. Mrs. Isham was the daughter of Jackson Carey, one of the prominent settlers of Hastings, Michigan, where Mrs. Isham was born. She became the mother of two sons, one of whom is the subject of this sketch, and Will Isham, who resides in Fargo, North Dakota.

With the exception of four years which were spent in other occupations, J. Frank Isham has followed general farming throughout his life. During the years 1903-04 he acted as traveling salesman for the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, and later served in the same capacity for the company in Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Isham also became interested in the store at Butternut which was owned by his father and where he was employed for two

years. The farm now managed by the subject of this sketch extends over two hundred and ten acres of land and is kept in an excellent state of cultivation. Aside from the farm residence there is another smaller building on the grounds which is also used as a dwelling.

On May 7, 1893, the marriage of J. Frank Isham to Jennie Wellwood, a native of Evergreen township, Montcalm county, was solemnized. She is the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Wellwood, the former of whom was born in Chatham, Kent county, Canada, and later moved to Bushnell township, in this county, where he follows the occupation of a farmer. He is also an extensive landowner in Bloomer township.

Mr. and Mrs. Isham are the parents of one son, Charles, who was born on September 4, 1909. In fraternal affairs Mr. Isham has always taken a prominent part and is at the present time a popular member of Carson City Lodge No. 306, Free and Accepted Masons.

CHESTER E. CHANDLER.

One of the most widely-known men of Montcalm county is Chester E. Chandler, who, owing to the large field covered by his activities as an auctioneer, has numbered among his acquaintances citizens from every part of the county. As a man of an engaging personality, force of conviction and powers of administration he has easily attained success in a line of work which has appealed to him since his boyhood. With a thorough knowledge of affairs pertaining to agriculture and a wealth of information on all branches of rural economy, he has filled a place in the industrial activities of the county in a manner deserving of the highest praise.

Chester E. Chandler is a native of Ashford, Cattaraugus county, New York, where he was born on the 30th of September, 1864. He is the son of Archelaus and Ellen (Frank) Chandler, the former of whom was born in Connecticut, of English parentage. Ellen Frank was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Quackenbush) Frank, natives of Germany, and claimed Ashford, New York, as her birthplace. At the time of his marriage Mr. Chandler was captain of a boat on the Erie canal and made his home at Palmyra, New York. After his marriage he took up his residence at Ashford, where he followed the occupation of an auctioneer with much success and where he lived until his death, which occurred when the subject of this sketch was just two and one-half years old. After the death of her husband,

whom she survived fifteen years, Mrs. Chandler married Robert Mackie, a native of New York, who was of Scotch ancestry. The family moved from Sugartown, New York, to Franklinville, where Mrs. Chandler passed away.

The early education of Chester E. Chandler was received at the Westfield Academy, in Chautauqua county, New York. Upon completing the course of study prescribed by the academy he returned to the farm in Franklinville where he remained until he was seventeen years old. After his marriage, which took place in 1886, Mr. Chandler came to Montcalm where he purchased the farm which still remains his home. The land, which consisted at that time of eighty acres, was partly owned by his wife and Mr. Chandler gained full possession of the estate by buying out the other heirs. From time to time the subject of this sketch has bought land surrounding the original farm until he has gained a tract of one hundred and seventeen acres.

At an early age Chester E. Chandler acquired a love of oratory and public speaking, which was a family trait, and which found expression in many instances. The first opportunity given Mr. Chandler to serve as an auctioneer occurred when he was nineteen years old, during the time when he was employed in a general store at Linden Center in Chautauqua county. The manager expressed his intention of closing out the business and Mr. Chandler seized the opportunity of originating a week sale, with himself as auctioneer of the stock. The venture proved most successful and Mr. Chandler soon learned through his accomplishments in this line of work that he was possessed of more than ordinary talent. After he had followed the occupation of a farmer for some years in Montcalm county, he decided to take up auctioneering as a profession and began on the 8th of March, 1893, to sell stocks of general merchandise in Montcalm, Mecosta and Isabella counties. Since that time he has conducted over twenty-eight hundred sales of many varieties and in various localities. Although he has been interested in a number of different kinds of sales, Mr. Chandler has made a specialty of farm and stock sales. His business, which extends over seven counties, often averages one hundred and seventy-five sales a year. Aside from his occupation as an auctioneer, Mr. Chandler has also been interested in the life insurance business and for the last three years has represented the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, which has an agency in this state extending over six counties. During his residence in this county, Mr. Chandler has taken an active and prominent part in the affairs of the Republican party.

On the 21st of February, 1886, Chester E. Chandler was united in mar-

riage to Della Rich, the daughter of Addison and Harriet (Camp) Rich, a native of Sandusky, New York. Her parents came to Montcalm county in 1869 and settled on the farm now occupied by Mr. Chandler and his family. The original homestead was covered with timber and wild underbrush and the task of clearing the land and cultivating the soil was beset with many of the hardships of pioneer life in this state. Mr. Rich passed away in 1885 and his wife survived him until 1910.

To Mr. and Mrs. Chandler one son, Harry H., has been born, who will complete the high school course in 1916. He was born on the 9th of December, 1896, and during his school years has made an unusual record for attendance and high deportment, never having been tardy during his entire attendance in school. His average standing in his studies for three and one-half years of school has been 96½, having taken his class honors at each term. He holds membership in the Congregational church. The subject of this sketch holds membership in Carson City Lodge No. 306, Free and Accepted Masons, and for twenty-four years was a member of the Macabees. Mr. Chandler was one of the first settlers in this part of the county and for miles around the vicinity of his home few citizens may be found who were here when the subject of this sketch came to Montcalm county for permanent residence.

MRS. MARY S. EITELBUSS.

Mrs. Mary S. Eitellbuss, the widow of George W. Eitellbuss, is the proprietor of the farm known as "Pioneer Place," consisting of two hundred and twenty-three acres of land lying four and one-half miles southeast of Fenwick, Michigan, on rural route No. 1. She was born in Bushnell township, October 20, 1863, the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Curtis) Allchin. Both of her parents were natives of the state of New York and came to Michigan where they located in Lenawee county and there they grew to maturity and were married. Then they moved to Bushnell township, and entered, by homestead, one hundred acres of land, upon which he built a log cabin and became a well-to-do farmer. He was a soldier in the Civil War. He became the father of nine children, eight of whom lived to maturity: Burdett, deceased; Alice, wife of William Reimer; Delfred, deceased; Mary S.; Pearl, wife of William Edmonds, of Isabella county, Michigan; Elizabeth, wife of George Reeves; Vir C., a farmer and super-

visor of Bushnell township; Vernie, wife of Robert Chapman, of Fenwick, Michigan; Octa N., wife of O. Galloup, of Bushnell township.

Mary S. Alchin was reared on the farm and educated in the district schools. She was married to George W. Eitelbuss on October 15, 1879. He was born in Ionia county, just across the line from Palo, Michigan, March 23, 1858, and was a child when his father entered the land now known as "Pioneer Place."

Mrs. Mary S. Eitelbuss became the mother of three children, namely: Catherine, who graduated at the Palo high school and the State Normal, is now the wife of B. R. Snow and lives in Fenwick, Michigan; Ward A., of St. Johns, Michigan, is a carpenter; Lea M., is the wife of Abraham Horigan, and lives in Greenville, Michigan. Mrs. Eitelbuss is a member of the Grange, and the auxiliary to the Maccabees.

Mrs. Eitelbuss is a prominent woman, being well known in this part of the state. Mr. Eitelbuss died on June 12, 1903, and was buried in the Bushnell cemetery. He was a prominent worker and member of the Methodist church at Fenwick. He was instrumental in building this church and contributed of his means and time to secure its erection. In 1885 Mr. Eitelbuss moved from the farm and erected a hardware store in Fenwick and engaged in this business for nine years, after which he and his family returned to his farm. He remained on the farm until his death. He was popular among all who knew him and during his lifetime was an ardent Prohibitionist.

HENRY RADER.

Henry Rader is one of the many men who have found ample opportunity in America for the realization of laudable ambition, especially in the agricultural field. He was born on July 12, 1862, in Germany, as were also his brothers and sisters, by name: Conrad, John H., George, Catherine, Una and Lizzie. John H. served for four years in the German army and in 1915 was acting as recruiting officer in the great world war. Conrad and Catherine (Hinkle) Rader, parents of Henry Rader, were born and reared in Germany and remained in that country all their lives. Of their seven children only two immigrated to America, namely, George and Henry, George arriving in 1883. He at once engaged in the vocation of farmer and located in Amble, Michigan, where he has since remained.

Henry Rader attended the German schools until he was fourteen years of age and was then confirmed by Rev. Clajbury, pastor of the German Lutheran church. After receiving his education and spending three years as a laboring man in his native country he sought his fortune in the United States, immigrating in 1880. Locating in Howard City, Michigan, he began his experience with an uncle and later engaged in the lumber woods, following this line of endeavor for some time. In 1888 Henry Rader was married to Mary Garbow, also a native of Germany, and established a residence on forty acres of land located six miles south of Howard City, Michigan. This farm has been increased until it now consists of one hundred and thirty-two acres of well improved and well cultivated soil.

Henry Rader and his wife are the parents of these children: Lena, Lizzie, Emma, Malinda, George and Herman, deceased, and Henry. Politically, Henry Rader is a stanch Republican and the entire family are devout members of the German Lutheran church, at Howard City, Michigan.

WILLIAM McHATTIE.

William McHattie, farmer and representative citizen of Montcalm county, Michigan, possesses many of the admirable qualities and characteristics of his sturdy Scotch ancestry. He was born on June 28, 1852, in Morayshire, Scotland, and is the son of Alexander and Marguerite (Taylor) McHattie, also natives of Morayshire, Scotland. Alexander McHattie was a shoemaker by trade and followed that vocation for many years, later accepting a government position as mail carrier. When he had reached an advanced age he retired to the village of Kingston, Scotland, where he remained until his death.

William McHattie is one of eleven children born of his parents' union, and is the youngest of the family. After completing his education in the common schools of his native country he engaged in agricultural pursuits in the interest of others. In 1873 he immigrated to Canada where he located in Grey county, Ontario, intending to prove a claim, but later removed to Michigan without doing so. In 1878 he located in Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he was employed in the woods for some time. In 1882 William McHattie purchased one hundred and thirty-two acres of cut-over timber land in section 20, of Pine township, which has since become one of the best equipped farms in the county. He



WILLIAM McHATTIE.

has always been exceptionally active in extending the principles of the Republican party, and was elected, in 1904, to serve as county treasurer of Montcalm county. He served in this capacity for four years and was then elected to serve as township supervisor for five years, having been elected in 1895, 1896, 1911, 1912, and again in 1913. In 1914 he was county delegate to the Republican state convention at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and has also represented the county twice in Detroit and once in Bay City, Michigan. He is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons and in his religious faith is a Presbyterian, in which church his family are also members.

On October 8, 1879, in Grey county, Ontario, Canada, William McHattie and Marguerite Story were united in marriage and three children were born of this union: Walter, married Gladys Ellsworth and is the clerk of Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan; Annabell, and Marguerite. Marguerite (Story) McHattie was born on November 4, 1850, in Grey county, Ontario, Canada, and is the daughter of Walter and Jessie (Douglass) Story, who were natives of Roxburgh county, Scotland. They located in Canada previous to their marriage, the mother coming with her parents when but a small child.

LYMAN HUNT.

Lyman Hunt, a well-known and prosperous farmer of Douglass township, this county, who for years was regarded as one of the most experienced and expert lumbermen in this section of the state, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in Kalamazoo county, this state, May 26, 1843, son of Aaron and Emmaline (Card) Hunt, both natives of Vermont, who lived north of Buffalo, at Clarence Hollow, New York, and became early settlers of Michigan, coming from Kalamazoo county to Montcalm county at an early day in the settlement of this county, being among the very earliest pioneers of Douglass township, Aaron Hunt having been one of the men who cut out the road from Stanton out in the direction of his homestead. Aaron Hunt homesteaded a quarter of a section of land in Douglass township, besides which he bought forty acres of state swamp land at one dollar an acre and proceeded to develop the same. He did a large business in pine timber during his clearing operations and it was while

thus engaged, in 1862, about five years after having settled in this county, that he met with a fatal accident, a falling log crushing his body so severely that he died five days later. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom the following besides the subject of this sketch grew to maturity: David, deceased; Stanton; Mary, who died in 1912; Eli, who died in 1914; William, now deceased; Sarah, who lives at McBride; Henry, who lives in St. Johns, Clinton county, this state; Gardner, of Douglas township; Albert, of McBride, and Mrs. Elizabeth Prall.

Lyman Hunt had grown to manhood when his parents came to Montcalm county and had had even then a somewhat extensive experience in the lumber woods. Instead of accompanying the family to this county he went to Rockford and was engaged there and at Grand Rapids in lumber mills until the death of his father, after which he joined the family in their home in Douglass township and ever since has lived there. During the summers **he worked in the mills and during the winters in lumber camps**, early becoming widely known as an expert "timber cruiser." In company with his brothers, Henry and William, Mr. Hunt presently went into the lumber business and this partnership continued for five years, after which Mr. Hunt continued in business alone and was very successful, remaining actively connected with the lumber business in Montcalm county for a period of twenty-eight years, or until the available timber hereabout was practically exhausted, most of the time working a crew of from seventy to one hundred men. Since retiring from the lumber business Mr. Hunt has confined his attention pretty largely to the development of his fine farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, and has one of the best-appointed and most thoroughly cultivated places in that part of the county, long having been recognized as one of the best farmers thereabout.

On December 12, 1871, Lyman Hunt was united in marriage to Rizpah Auten, who also was born in Kalamazoo county, this state, and whose parents, natives of New York, had settled in Montcalm county on August 25, 1870, and to this union seven children have been born, as follow: Edna, who died at the age of seven years; Minnie, who taught school in this county for eight or ten years and is now cashier in the Hotel Ponchartrain at Detroit; Grace, who married Harvey Lee, died in 1914; Jennie, who married Chester Henry, of Chatham, Ohio, and has two children; Myrtle, who married Harry Broughton and lives at Detroit; Morris, who married Mary Singleton, lives at Detroit, where he is a car inspector on the Michigan Central railroad; and Harold, who makes his home on the paternal farm, but

spends his winters in Detroit with the Hudson Automobile Company. The Hunts ever have been active in the general social life of their community, actively interested in all movements designed to advance the common good thereof, and are held in the highest esteem throughout that entire section of the county. Lyman Hunt is a Democrat and is active in the interests of that party. He and his wife are members of the Maccabees.

ELI SQUIRE.

Among the well-known farmers and stock raisers of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Eli Squire, the owner of "Brookside Farm," who was born in Gratiot county, Michigan, on October 27, 1858, a son of Franklin and Eliza A. (Harrington) Squire, the former born in Geauga county, Ohio, on February 15, 1827, the latter near Adrian, Michigan, at which place they were married on February 23, 1851.

After their marriage Franklin Squire and his wife located in Lenawee county, Michigan, where they lived until 1854, and then moved to Gratiot county, the elder Squire there homesteading one hundred and sixty acres of land, a place on which he built the first frame house of the community and where he lived as a successful farmer until 1902, when Franklin Squire and his family came to Montcalm county, and located in Bloomer township, where he lived for the remainder of his days, dying on August 31, 1913, his wife having died in 1866. Franklin and Eliza A. Squire were the parents of eight children, three of whom survive: Eli, the subject of this sketch; Alice, the wife of Nehemiah Hayner, of Clinton county, Michigan, and John, a resident of Hastings, Michigan.

Eli Squire received his education in the schools of Gratiot county, Michigan, after which he lived on the home farm until he was sixteen years of age and then he worked on neighboring farms for one summer, afterward going into the woods of the region, where he was employed for twenty-three years, rising from a humble position to that of head sawyer for one of the great mills of the Michigan lumber interests. In the year 1904, Eli Squire came to Montcalm county, and located on a farm of two hundred acres which he had purchased three years previously, and on this farm Mr. Squire has placed a number of improvements and has added land until now he is the owner of two hundred and eighty acres, which was formerly known as the old Porter farm, now known as "Brookside Farm." On his

farm Eli Squire is now engaged in general agricultural pursuits, he being known as one of the more progressive and one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers of the township and county.

On November 25, 1881, Eli Squire was married to Anna Shuttleworth, and to this union have been born four children: Alida, who was educated in and graduated from the Ferris Institute of Big Rapids, Michigan, and who now is the wife of R. D. Lammie, a chemist with the Stearns Company, of Detroit, Michigan; Alta, a high school graduate and a graduate of the Detroit Conservatory of Music, now the wife of W. J. Tripp, who is superintendent of the public schools at Rockland, Michigan; Earl, who is a graduate of Albion College, and who was a student of Harvard University, for one year, he now being superintendent of the Western Packing Company, of Chicago, and Lyle, who now is a student in the public schools of Carson City, Montcalm county.

Eli Squire is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, carrying insurance in this organization. In politics, Mr. Squire is a Republican, being well known in the ranks of this party.

WILLIAM MADER.

One of the prominent and influential farmers of Pierson township, Montcalm county, is William Mader, the son of Carl and Christena (Strenger) Mader. William Mader was born in Pommern, Germany, on August 22, 1867, and came to the United States in 1882, having at first located in Wisconsin, where he remained but a short time and later came to Montcalm county. For the next three or four years he was employed on a farm near Howard City and in the woods of that section. After his residence of some few years in Montcalm county he returned to Wisconsin where he remained for one year, after which he returned to his former home in Michigan.

William Mader was married on October 3, 1898, to Augusta Paasch. Mrs. Mader was born in Germany and came to the United States alone. Having settled in Michigan she met and married Mr. Mader. By their united efforts and hard work, they have built for themselves a most comfortable and pleasing home. When Mr. Mader first became a resident of the county he purchased their original forty acres and since added to this another forty acres in Pierson township and fifty acres in Maple Valley

township. By his diligence and close application to the duties of his farm he has succeeded in bringing it into a high state of cultivation. Coming to the United States, without money or influence, Mr. and Mrs. Mader have by hard work won recognition by their own efforts.

Mr. and Mrs. Mader are the parents of one child, Arnold, who was born on February 11, 1909. William Mader and wife are active and influential members of the German Evangelical Lutheran church at Howard City and take great interest in all church work. Politically, Mr. Mader is a Democrat, but is not active in the political affairs of the community.

GEORGE R. BANTON.

Numbered among the essentially representative business men of Montcalm county, is George R. Banton, whose family name has been linked with the industrial advancement of this part of the state for almost sixty years. The subject of this sketch has contributed his share of honor to the family whose reputation has always been one of highest regard. He was born in Bloomer township, this county, on the 25th of May, 1874, and is the son of Edwin R. and Samantha (Holcomb) Banton.

Edwin R. Banton was born in 1836, in Bangor, Maine, and at the age of fourteen moved with his parents to the state of New York. From that state he moved to Ionia, Michigan, where he made his home with his brother, Alfred Banton. In 1864 he came to Bloomer township, this county, where he located on a tract of land one and one-half miles northwest of Butternut, on the north edge of the township. At the beginning of his residence in this locality Indians were still inhabiting the remote sections of the forests and wild animals were common. In the year 1900 Edwin R. Banton went to Flint, where for three years he was engaged in the music business, which he eventually gave up and returned to his farm. Samantha (Holcomb) Banton was reared near the lakes of Seneca and Cayuga, in New York, and moved to Ionia with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Holcomb, when she was still a child. Her father built a dam at Ionia and during the process of installing a woolen-mill on the dam caught a severe cold which resulted in his death. Aside from the subject of this sketch, Mrs. Edwin Banton reared a daughter, who is now Mrs. Ella J. Smith. Mr. Banton is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is a communicant of the Methodist church, of which church his wife was a member.

George R. Banton, after completing the course in the common schools of Bloomer township, attended the Collegiate Institute at Waterloo, Iowa, and later entered the Yerington Business College, at St. Louis, Michigan. For two years following his graduation from the school just mentioned he followed the occupation of a farmer in the northwestern part of Bloomer township. Mr. Banton then decided to enter the business world and managed a general merchandise store for five years. At the end of that time he sold the store and invested in the grain business of Butternut, a field of endeavor which has proved to be extremely profitable. As the business grew Mr. Banton felt the need of a partner in the management of affairs and two years ago gave the place of partner to William F. Kerr. In 1905 they built the elevator at Butternut. The road to success followed by the subject of this sketch has not always been smooth, it has been set with discouragement and disappointment, but these things have never fostered despair in the heart of Mr. Banton. Two years after the elevator had been completed it burned to the ground, but since that time has been rebuilt and the best of mechanical equipment installed.

On the 30th of January, 1895, the marriage of George R. Banton and Grace Morey took place. Mrs. Banton was born in Ronald township, Ionia county, Michigan, the daughter of John and Mary (Lester) Morey. John Morey, who was born near Schuylerville, in Saratoga county, New York, on the 17th of July, 1839, was the son of Nelson and Catherine (Simmons) Morey, and came to Michigan as early as 1861, where he entered the profession of school teaching. Before coming to this part of the country Mr. Morey had experience as a teacher in the public schools of the East. During his teaching term at Fremont he was married and for some time following continued to practice his profession in Ronald township, of Ionia county. In March, 1892, after he had spent over thirty years as a farmer and teacher in this community, Mr. Morey returned to New York, where his death occurred in the following July. Upon his return to the place of his birth Mr. Morey bought back the old home farm of his father's.

Mary Lester was born in Saratoga county, New York, and was the daughter of George and Elizabeth (Fitzsimmons) Lester. Her father, who was one of the most prominent lumbermen of his time, was born near Rome, Oneida county, New York. As early as 1850 he moved to Newago, Michigan, where he engaged the lumber business which was one of the most thriving industries of that locality. He took charge of the business established by a lumber company of Glens Falls, New York, which he con-

ducted for ten years. In his native state he had also been interested in the grain business and devoted part of his time in Michigan to that line of work. As a result of an attack of pneumonia which he contracted during a trip to Chicago, Mr. Lester died in the spring of 1861. Two years after his death his wife moved to Ionia county where she bought a farm and where she lived a short time before moving to Detroit where she passed away in April, 1903. Mary Lester completed her education in the Saratoga Seminary, in New York. She became the mother of five children, one of whom died in infancy; Jessie, the widow of William McKean, lives in Detroit; Grace became the wife of the subject of this sketch; Nelson Claire resides in Grand Rapids; Leon J. died in 1913.

George R. Banton is deeply interested in the affairs of his home and takes a true delight in planning the future of his children. The eldest child, Ronald, is a graduate of the Carson City high school and Glenn and Mary are still attending school. The members of the family attend the Congregational church and participate in all movements for its welfare. Fraternally, Mr. Banton is affiliated with the Masons and with the Maccabees.

JOHN M. FITZPATRICK.

Imbued with a strong desire for achievement and possessing those sterling attributes of character which are the elements of the best in citizenship, John M. Fitzpatrick has steadily climbed the ladder of success until he has reached a place of prominence in the community in which he lives. His business ability and manifestation of high principles of living have given him a position of the highest esteem in the county which has been his home for over twenty-five years. John M. Fitzpatrick was born on the 17th of September, 1856, in Boston, Erie county, New York, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (Cottrell) Fitzpatrick, the former of whom was a native of County Clare, Ireland. Thomas Fitzpatrick was born in 1815 and upon arriving in this country settled in Springville, New York, where he established his residence until 1859, when he went to Sardinia, in the same state. Mr. Fitzpatrick followed the occupation of a farmer and a blacksmith, until his death which occurred on the 12th of May, 1876. Mary Cottrell was a native of Utica, New York, and became the mother of thirteen children. Three years after the death of her husband, in 1879, Mrs. Fitzpatrick passed away.

The early life of John M. Fitzpatrick was spent in Sardinia, where he learned the first principles necessary for cheese making, a branch of the agricultural industry which he followed for over forty years with marked success. In the year 1890 John M. Fitzpatrick left his native home and came to Butternut, in Montcalm county, for permanent residence. Upon arriving in this section of the state he worked for Cross & Isham, who were at that time in the act of erecting their cheese factory. After working for this firm for one year, Mr. Fitzpatrick had accumulated sufficient funds to enable him to buy out one of the partners, Mr. Isham. Several years later he bought out the interest belonging to Mr. Cross, and ran the business independently until 1915, when he sold the factory to the Campbell Brothers Company, of Detroit.

When the business was opened in 1890 only five or six patrons brought milk for cheese making, and after a short time the managers decided to sell cheese in Stanton. This decision gave evidence in the beginning of meeting disappointment, as it was difficult for a new factory to take the place of one which had been established in that community for twenty years, and whose goods had been giving entire satisfaction, however, Mr. Fitzpatrick proved that he was even able to meet courageously, strong competition. His business continued to increase from time to time until the management now handles twenty thousand pounds of milk a day. Mr. Fitzpatrick has extended his business until he owns aside from the main factory, three cheese factories in other localities.

In partnership with his brother, H. P. Fitzpatrick in 1894, the subject of this sketch bought a creamery in Carson City, which they converted into a cheese factory. After selling out to his brother, Mr. Fitzpatrick opened a new cheese factory at Fenwick, with Chauncey Case as his partner in the business. Later this factory was sold to William Eaton, one of the employees. In the year 1900, Mr. Fitzpatrick carried on the most extensive interests in cheese making that he had attempted since entering that field of endeavor. He managed three factories, located at Butternut, Fenwick and Crystal. The Crystal factory was at last sold to Mr. Case and the subject of this sketch began to devote more time to the interests of general farming. The farm owned by the subject of this sketch is situated a short distance north-east of Butternut and extends over one hundred and twenty acres of land. The family residence, however, is maintained in the village of Butternut.

The marriage of John M. Fitzpatrick to Luella Hopkins was solemnized in 1880. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, who is a native of Sardinia, New York, is the

daughter of Daniel W. and Lucinda (Reynolds) Hopkins. Daniel Hopkins was born in 1839, in Pennsylvania, but spent most of his life in Sardinia, where he followed the occupation of a farmer. He passed away in 1913, and his wife, Lucinda, who survives him and who is also a native of New York, resides in Yorkshire, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick are the parents of the following children: Cora M., who was born in 1886 and who became the wife of Lewis Ligrow, resides in Carson City; Eva Marie is the widow of Harry Wilson, and lives in Toledo, Ohio, and has one child, Louise, born on February 28, 1913; Vera C. is the wife of Elmer F. Barret and has two daughters, Helen and Genevieve, and they reside in Toledo. All the children of Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick were born in Sardinia, New York.

Although he has never aspired to political offices, Mr. Fitzpatrick enters heartily into every movement for the betterment of the community in which he lives and gives his firm support to affairs for civic welfare. Fraternally, he is a member of the Maccabees and in his religious views he is a follower of the teachings of the Catholic church and attends St. Mary's church at Carson City, Michigan.

LUCIUS B. SCHERMERHORN.

Lucius B. Schermerhorn, because of his sterling qualities of character and honest endeavor, has won a place of high regard in the community in which he lives. His birth occurred on November 9, 1856, in Channahon, Will county, Illinois, and he is the son of Isaac and Jane (Baccus) Schermerhorn. Isaac Schermerhorn was a native of Schenectady, New York, and was the son of John B. Schermerhorn, who was a native of Holland. Jane (Baccus) Schermerhorn was born in Oakland county, Michigan. She came to Montcalm county, Michigan, with her husband and family in 1868, where Isaac Schermerhorn was engaged in the lumber business. He specialized in large square timbers, which were used in the construction of large buildings, but he later engaged in agricultural pursuits in Montcalm township, of this county, and remained here until his removal to Stanton, Michigan, where his death occurred.

Lucius B. Schermerhorn was reared as a farmer and after completing his schooling, engaged in the vocation in which he has since remained. In 1880 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially cleared land, in section 36, of Pine township, of this county, for which he paid sixteen

dollars. One hundred and ten acres of this land is now cleared and under cultivation, and is devoted to general agriculture and stock raising.

On April 20, 1883, Lucius B. Schermerhorn was united in marriage to Charlotte Churchill, daughter of John and Henrietta S. (Wilcox) Churchill, and of the four children born of their union only one is now living, namely, Alva W., who was born on December 19, 1892, and assists his father with the work on the home farm. The names of the other children follow: Ivan, born on January 9, 1884, and died on April 11, 1888; Gladys, born on January 11, 1889, and died on April 24, of the same year, during an epidemic of diphtheria, and Guy, whose birth occurred on June 23, 1902, died on January 28, 1905. The mother of these children was a native of Montcalm county, Michigan. She died on June 27, 1902. Politically, Lucius B. Schermerhorn votes independent of party. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of the Maccabees, who hold him in high esteem.

EDWIN R. BANTON.

Edwin R. Banton, one of the pioneers of Montcalm county, a well-known resident of the northern part of Bloomer township, this county, is a native of Maine, having been born in Bangor, that state, on June 2, 1836, son of Joseph B. and Sophronia (Raulet) Banton, the former of whom was born in Manchester, England, and the latter in Maine. Joseph B. Banton was a sea-faring man, captain of a vessel on the Atlantic in the earlier years of his manhood, who later retired to shore and became a Maine farmer. He was a highly educated man and gave his son, Edwin R., every assistance in acquiring a liberal education.

In the fall of 1857, he then having reached his majority, Edwin R. Banton came to Michigan, seeking fortune amid the conditions that even then gave large promise in this section of the state. He located at Ionia, where, on March 1, 1864, he married Samantha Holcomb, who was born in New York, but who had come to Michigan with her parents in her girlhood and had been reared at Ionia. In the November following Mr. Banton and his bride came to this county and entered a tract of land in the midst of the forest at the north edge of Bloomer township and there proceeded to make their home in the wilderness. Their first home was a log cabin, eleven by twelve feet in dimensions, in which they lived for twelve years before they supplanted it by a more pretentious residence, and there, with the exception

of a few years following 1900, in which he was engaged in the music business at Flint, this state, Mr. Banton has made his home ever since.

To Edwin R. and Samantha (Holcomb) Banton two children were born, George R., the well-known elevator man, of Butternut, this county, a biographical sketch of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume, and Ella, a former well-known school teacher of this county, who married George A. Smith, a traveling salesman and auctioneer, and has one child, a daughter, Nila B., who was graduated from the University of Michigan and is now a teacher in the city schools of Calumet, this state. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Banton married, secondly, Mrs. Loretta (Yaw) Searle, daughter of Calvin and Nancy (Packard) Yaw, and widow of Wallace Searle, a former well-known farmer of Bushnell township, this county, who died in March, 1894. Mr. Searle was born in Batavia, New York, and came to this county when he was twenty-one years of age, the remainder of his life having been spent here. Mrs. Banton was born in the city of Chagrin Falls, in Geauga county, Ohio, her father having been a native of Wales and her mother of New York state. They moved to Michigan when she was ten years of age and settled in Sidney township, this county, where they bought a farm and established their permanent home.

HERMAN W. SMITH.

Herman W. Smith, postmaster at Entrican and a well-known and progressive merchant of that thriving village, is a native son of Montcalm county, having been born on a farm in Douglass township, April 11, 1875, son of Byron and Colista (Lee) Smith, the former of whom died in 1899 and the latter of whom is still living in Douglass township.

Byron Smith was born at Smithport, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1855, son of Silas L. and Mary (Vaughn) Smith, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Michigan in 1861 and settled on a tract of land in Douglass township, this county, where the village of Entrican now stands and in that neighborhood spent the remainder of their lives. Silas L. Smith was an expert woodsman and was for years active in the work of clearing the forests hereabout. Upon settling in Douglass township he took a small farm of forty acres, which he later sold and bought a farm of eighty acres in Cato township, where his last days were spent, meeting a tragic death in 1887, when he was fatally gored by an angry bull. He was active in local affairs

and had served his township in the capacity of treasurer and supervisor, to which offices he was elected on the Democratic ticket. He and his wife were the parents of three children, their only son, Byron, father of the subject of this sketch, having had two sisters, Mrs. Phoebe Luther, now living in Nebraska, and Mrs. Nettie Luther, now living in Oregon.

Byron Smith was about six years of age when his parents moved to this county and he grew to manhood on the paternal farm and followed farming all through his life. On March 31, 1874, he married Colista Lee, who was born in Canada, July 24, 1856, daughter of Peter and Rebecca (Shaver) Lee, who drove through with their family in a covered wagon to this county in 1865 and settled in Douglass township, about a mile and a half east of Entrican. Peter Lee became a substantial farmer, the owner of a farm of more than two hundred acres, and was also active in local public affairs, having served his township as supervisor and as treasurer at different times, being elected to the same on the Republican ticket. He and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist church and ever were active in good works. They were the parents of five children, of whom there are still living, Mrs. Sophrona Buckrell, of Muskegon, this state; the mother of the subject of this sketch, and Elgin, of Edmore; the second born, Mrs. Adaline Bennett and James being deceased, the former having died in 1908. Peter Lee died in 1878 and his widow survived him many years, her death occurring at the home of her grandson, Herman W. Smith, at Entrican, in 1909.

To Byron and Colista (Lee) Smith two children were born, their only son, Herman W., having a younger sister, Gertrude, born in 1884, who was graduated from the Michigan State Normal at Mt. Pleasant and was for years one of Montcalm county's well-known teachers. She married W. V. Horn, who is employed in her brother's store at Entrican, and has one child, a daughter, Cecelia. Byron Smith was for years one of the best-known farmers in Douglass township, his well-kept place, "Rose Lawn Farm," about one and one-half miles west from Entrican, being long regarded as one of the model farms of the neighborhood. Mr. Smith was a Republican, taking a good citizen's part in local political affairs, but was never an aspirant for office, though he did serve the public very acceptably for a time as highway commissioner. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church and at the time of his death in 1899 he had been serving for some years as one of the stewards of the church. In 1910 his widow married, secondly, Oscar Johnson, who was born in Kent county, this state, and is now living in Douglass township.

Herman W. Smith was reared on the home farm in Douglass township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home. Evincing unusual aptitude for his studies he was sent to the high school at Ionia and upon completing the course there successfully passed the examination for teacher's license and for six years was engaged as a teacher, conducting in all, eighteen terms of school, in the meantime taking a course in the Normal School at Big Rapids and at Mt. Pleasant. During his service as a teacher he taught two years in Cato township, and the balance of the time in Douglass township. In October, 1900, Mr. Smith began his business career by engaging in the general merchandise business at Bowne Center, in Kent county, and was there thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he bought the general store of Arthur J. Steere at Entrican, this county, an eight-thousand-dollar stock of goods, to which he added the five-thousand-dollar stock he had been carrying at Bowne Center, and has ever since been successfully engaged in business at Entrican, having built up quite a flourishing and profitable business, his trade covering a rich section for miles thereabout. In addition to his general merchandise business, Mr. Smith also acts as agent for the International line of agricultural implements and farm machinery and has an extensive trade in that line. Mr. Smith is an enterprising, energetic and up-to-date merchant, looking closely after all lines of his business and occupies a high place in the estimation of commercial circles generally hereabout. He is a Republican and for years has given close attention to political affairs in this county, being accounted one of the leaders of the party in his part of the county. In 1913 he was appointed postmaster at Entrican and ever since has performed the duties of that office in a manner very acceptable to the people of that vicinity, the post-office being conducted in his store.

On August 29, 1896, Herman W. Smith was united in marriage to Grace Steere, who was born at Crystal, this county, daughter of Leonard and Sarah (Jason) Steere, prominent pioneers of that neighborhood, a detailed history of which family is set out in the biographical sketch of Mrs. Smith's brother, Arthur J. Steere, a prominent merchant of McBride, presented elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are active members of the Methodist church at Entrican. Mr. Smith being one of the trustees of the church, and both take an interested part in the general social activities of the community, being held in high esteem by all thereabout. Mr. Smith is an Odd Fellow, a member of the local lodge of the Macca-bees and of the Gleaners and takes a warm interest in the affairs of all these several organizations.

ERNEST A. KEMP.

Ernest A. Kemp, prominent business man and citizen of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on February 28, 1861, a son of Alfred and Mary (Jones) Kemp, the former born in England, in 1814, the latter born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, where she lived until moving to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where she was married.

Alfred Kemp came to America, with his parents, when he was a boy and lived in New York state, for a time, after which he moved to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where he grew to manhood and where he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War. Alfred Kemp enlisted with the Seventh Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Cavalry and served for four years, at the battle of Gettysburg being seriously wounded. Following the close of the Civil War, Alfred Kemp returned to Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where he engaged in farming for the remainder of his active life. Alfred and Mary Kemp were the parents of eight children, of whom four survive, namely: William, of Clinton county; Fred, of Pasadena, California; O. C., of Greenville, Montcalm county, and Ernest A., the subject of this sketch.

Ernest A. Kemp was educated in the common schools and lived at home until he was nineteen years of age, in 1879 becoming an employee of his brother, O. C. Kemp, in the insurance business at Greenville, Michigan. Later, Ernest A. Kemp secured a half interest in the business and then some time afterward became the sole proprietor of the agency, he now, as a result of his able management, being at the head of one of the best known and most thriving agencies of the community, it being known now as E. A. Kemp & Son.

In September, 1887, Ernest A. Kemp was married to Sarah M. Hutchins, who was born in Greenville and after completing her education in the public schools became a school teacher, a profession which she followed for seven years, when she was married. Ernest A. and Sarah M. Kemp are the parents of two children: L. Stanley, twenty-four years of age, who after completing his education in the Greenville public schools and at the University of Michigan, became associated with his father in the insurance business, and Lucile, twenty-one years of age, who was educated at the Greenville high school, now a student at the Detroit Conservatory of Music.

Ernest A. Kemp is not only prominent in the insurance business at

Greenville, Montcalm county, but he is active in other business circles, now being a director of the Commercial State Savings Bank, as well as serving on the directorate of the Moore Plow and Implement Company, and the Northland Lumber Company.

Mr. Kemp is a well-known member of the lodge of Knights of Pythias, in Greenville, and is active in all community matters. In politics he is a Republican.

SHERMAN LONG.

Sherman Long, prosperous farmer and man of influence in the affairs of Reynolds township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Huron county, Ohio, on April 11, 1867, the son of James and Harriet (McKelvey) Long, natives of Huron county, Ohio, they being of Irish descent.

James Long was a son of Andrew Long, who came from his home in Ireland to America and located at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where after living for about five years, he moved to Ohio, and settled in Huron county, where Andrew Long made his home for the remainder of his days. Following his marriage to Harriet McKelvey, a daughter of Robert McKelvey and wife, who came to Huron county, Ohio, from Ireland, at an early date, James Long, in 1878, came to Michigan, and located in Kalkaska county, where he bought a farm and one year later sold that place and came to Reynolds township, Montcalm county. Here James Long purchased one thousand acres of land, some of which he sold, retaining four hundred and forty-five acres, which he cultivated for the remainder of his active life, he also having conducted a mill for about twenty-five years. James and Harriet Long were the parents of two children, Grant, of this county, and Sherman. James Long died in 1911; his wife, Harriet, died in 1893.

Sherman Long received his education in the common schools of his locality, after which he worked on the home farm for some years, and then he was given possession of four hundred and forty-five acres of land in sections 11 and 12, of Reynolds township, on which Mr. Long now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

Sherman Long is one of the prominent citizens of Reynolds township, his activity for the development of the community and its resources, as well as his interest in modern agriculture and the advancement of the general conditions of the farmer in this locality, having given him a place of note among the valued citizens of Montcalm county. In politics, Mr. Long is an ardent

Republican, and although he has not aspired to public office, preferring to serve as a private citizen, he has been active in the election of good officers and the promotion of good citizenship.

ANGUS H. McDONALD.

One of the public-spirited citizens and progressive business men of Six Lakes, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Angus H. McDonald, a native of the Dominion of Canada, born at Kingston, April 11, 1853, a son of William K. and Charlotte (Wright) McDonald. Both parents were born in Canada, the father on November 3, 1821, at Prescott, near Kingston. He was a son of Andrew McDonald and wife, who came to the Dominion from Scotland, having been born and reared in Edinburgh. William K. McDonald was a dealer in cattle, horses and other live stock, and died on September 20, 1885. His wife, who was born in 1830, died January 16, 1869, when just forty years of age.

Angus H. McDonald was one of a family of six children, the eldest dying in infancy, and Angus is next in order of birth; Andrew lives at Cleveland; Malcolm still remains at Kingston, in Canada; Marinda lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Daniel is deceased, and Clara is Mrs. Redlen, living near the old home in Canada.

Mr. McDonald left Canada in 1870, and came to Greenville in 1872, where he remained for ten years. He then came to Six Lakes and has since that time been actively engaged in various business enterprises in this section. He was at first employed in lumber and shingle mills in Six Lakes and vicinity and later operated same. When the lumber business had seen its best days, he purchased an elevator and operated it for eleven or twelve years, selling out to J. W. Gaffield and Sons. Mr. McDonald has now practically retired from active business matters and gives considerable attention to his farm in Belvidere township. He lives on his farm of one hundred and twenty acres just outside the corporation of Six Lakes, and owned another farm of eighty acres elsewhere in the township which he recently sold. He is also agent for the Ford automobile in Belvidere, Home, Richland and one-half of Douglas townships and formerly had the agency for the whole of Genesee county. He is a hustler and places many of these machines during a season.

Mr. McDonald gives ardent support to the Republican party and has



ANGUS H. McDONALD.

served twelve years as township treasurer of Belvidere township in addition to other services rendered his party. He holds fraternal affiliation with the Free and Accepted Masons, being connected with the blue lodge at Six Lakes and the chapter at Stanton. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows through the local lodge at Edmore, and takes a commendable interest in the work of these orders.

Angus H. McDonald was married on July 5, 1882, to Theresa J. Lake, born on July 13, 1857, in Gratiot county, this state, a daughter of John and Nancy Lake. Mrs. McDonald passed from this life on March 19, 1914. Mr. McDonald has two adopted children: Andrew H., at home attending school, and Clara E., wife of Lieut. F. C. Hecox, a native of Greenville, Michigan, now of the Seventh Regiment, United States Army, located at El Paso, Texas, and they have two children, Robert A., and Floyd C., Jr. Mr. McDonald is very highly esteemed by his fellow townsmen, is possessed of keen business foresight and integrity above reproach, consequently, he is entitled to the high regard in which he is held.

GEORGE F. COMDEN.

George F. Comden, supervisor of Douglass township, this county, and one of the best-known and most highly respected farmers of that section of the county, is a native of the British dominion across the line to the north, having been born in Canada on May 1, 1872, son of the Rev. Anthony J. and Sarah (Widdess) Comden, the former a native of England and the latter of Canada, for years prominent and influential residents of Douglass township, this county. The Rev. Anthony J. Comden, who died in 1898, at the age of sixty-eight years, was for years not only a substantial farmer of Douglass township, but was one of the best-known "local" preachers attached to the Ionia district of the Michigan conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, long having been engaged as pastor of the Langston circuit of that district, a leader in all good works thereabout, whose death was widely mourned throughout the circuit in which he had labored so unselfishly and so usefully. His widow is now living at Stanton, this county, enjoying many evidences of the high esteem in which she is held by all who know her.

The Rev. Anthony J. Comden was English by birth and blood, having
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been born within two miles of the town of Torquay, in Devonshire, England, November 12, 1841, son of Thomas and Jane (Tucker) Comden, who were the parents of five other children, Thomas S., Mary, Sarah, Maria and Eliza. In 1855 the lad, Anthony, being then about thirteen years of age, the Comdens emigrated from England to Canada, and settled on a farm on what is now known as the Durham and Northumberland tract, where Anthony grew to manhood, assisting in the development of the new farm, and where he remained until his twenty-fourth year. In 1866 he married Sarah Widdess, who was born at Cartwright, Canada, in October, 1845, and in 1868 came to Michigan, settling on a farm near Pontiac, in Oakland county, in October of that year, and there he remained until 1880, in which year he and his family came to this county and settled in Douglass township, where they established a permanent home. Mr. Comden bought a quarter section of land here, which he proceeded to improve until at the time of his death, in 1898, he had a well-cultivated and model farm.

Intensely earnest in his nature, Mr. Comden early became interested in religion and by thoughtful and studious application fitted himself for the pulpit, sitting up late at night after the labors of the day in order that he might be properly equipped for conveying to others the message of the Gospel which rested heavily on his heart. He was ordained as a "local" preacher of the Methodist conference and for ten years served most acceptably as pastor of the Langston circuit, being thus engaged in the dual vocation of farmer and minister of the Gospel, in both of which he was highly successful. The Rev. Anthony J. Compton also took an intense interest in educational matters and for years was influential in the work of elevating the standards of education in this county. He was treasurer of the school board for years and in many ways assisted in promoting the cause of the schools in Douglass township. He also was assessor of his district for nine years and in all his relations to the public service was as faithful and conscientious as he was in his private relations with his fellowmen. He was a most earnest worker in the Sunday school and organized a number of such schools during his term of service in this community. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, in the affairs of which order he took a warm interest.

To the Rev. Anthony J. and Sarah (Widdess) Comden ten children were born, as follow: Mary, who married J. Luther, and lives in Mecosta county, this state; Ella, who married Lacey Farwell and lives at Quincy, this state; Elizabeth, deceased; George F., the immediate subject of this

biographical sketch; Samuel, a farmer of Douglass township, this county, who is highway commissioner for that township; Lily, wife of the Rev. William Mann, of North Muskegon, this state; Charles, who lives at Stanton, this county; Emma, wife of E. O. Silver, of Douglass township; Fred, a Douglass township farmer, and one other who died in infancy.

George F. Comden was eight years of age when his parents moved from Oakland county to Montcalm county and he grew up on the home farm in Douglass township. He remained at home until his marriage, at the age of twenty-three, after which he settled on a farm of forty acres in Douglass township, which he presently increased by purchase to one hundred and twenty acres. Later, however, he sold eighty acres of that tract and is now confining his farming operations to his well-kept place of forty acres. Mr. Comden is a Republican and has ever taken an active part in local political affairs. He was treasurer of the township for six terms and has served on the school board for more than sixteen years, still serving as a director, and in other ways has done his part well in doing what he could to advance the better interests of the community.

In 1895, at Greenville, this county, George F. Comden was united in marriage to Mamie V. Steele, who was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Overmeyer) Steele, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany. John Steele's father, Captain Steele, was a wealthy shipper at Philadelphia, for twenty-five years a sea captain, who had an interest in six vessels and warehouses and was for years harbor-master at Philadelphia. He was the father of ten children, of whom three are still living, William, of Philadelphia; George, of Grand Rapids, this state, and Walter, who lives in the state of Washington. To John Steele and wife three children were born, Joseph Conrad, who died in 1898; Charles Daniel, who is with the Waldron Lake Resort Company at Charlevoix, this state, and Mamie Virginia, who married Mr. Comden. John Steele died in Philadelphia. His widow died in 1899, at the age of sixty-one years. She was ten years of age when she came to this country from Germany with her parents and she grew to womanhood in Baltimore, Maryland, where she married John Steele.

To George F. and Mamie Virginia (Steele) Comden two children have been born, Roy Thompson, born on June 1, 1901, who died when eleven days old, and Carl, March 25, 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Comden also have an adopted daughter, Dorothy Grace. They are devoted members of the Methodist church, Mr. Comden having become connected with that church when

thirteen years of age and his wife also at an early age, and are interested in all community good works, being held in high esteem throughout the neighborhood of their home. Mr. Comden is one of the stewards of the church and has been a trustee of the same ever since it was built. He is a member of the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Entrican and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that order.

ROBERT NEVE.

Of the fourteen children born to his parents, Robert Neve and his brother, James, are the only ones who survive. Thrown upon his own resources at a very early age, Robert Neve has overcome all obstacles and now holds an enviable place among the citizens of Montcalm county, Michigan. His efforts in acquiring an honorable competency have been well directed and guided by a Christian spirit. He was born on March 22, 1853, in Rotterdam, New York, and is the son of William and Mary (Page) Neve, both natives of England, who married there and reared thirteen of their children in that country. They immigrated to America where the death of William Neve occurred in 1855, Robert Neve being nearly two years of age at the time. Following their arrival on American shores the family located in the state of New York but subsequently removed to Ionia county, Michigan, where the husband and father died. A farm was purchased, the first payment being made by William Neve, and the sons paid the balance due. The widow removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1860 and took a homestead of forty acres which is now part of the Robert Neve farm, and she made a home for her son, Robert, until he was old enough to support himself, at which time he assumed the care of his mother until her death in 1894.

On February 24, 1879, at the age of twenty-six, Robert Neve was married to Fanny Eastwood, who was born on July 12, 1859, in Oakland county, Michigan, and they became the parents of three daughters and two sons, Grace, Blanch, Mary, William and Chester. Grace is a graduate of the Pierson high school and the wife of Fred Hartwell and they reside at Sand Lake; Blanch is also a graduate of the Pierson school and is the wife of Paul Shafley and they live at Lansing; Mary died, aged nineteen years; William died in infancy, and Chester, who died aged seven years. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pierson, and

active supporters of that denomination. At the time of his marriage, Robert Neve was the owner of forty acres of land which is now a part of the one hundred and twenty acres comprising his home place. This property is devoted to the breeding of Poland China hogs, the herd leader being "Big Bone Perfection," and Shorthorn cattle as well as Oxford sheep. "Star Duke" is the leader of the cattle, which herd was started in 1900. The breeding of hogs was begun in 1875 and succeeded so well that the breeding of cattle and sheep became a natural sequence. The stock farm is known as "Spring Water Stock Farm," and the forty acres which is devoted to general agriculture is known as "Sunny Nook Garden and Fruit Farm."

Robert Neve is a man that is well known throughout Montcalm county as an honorable, upright citizen and is well liked by all who know him. In his political views he is a stanch Republican and has served as highway commissioner of Pierson township. His brother, James Neve, married Anstus Kinny and is a retired farmer living south of the town of Pierson.

E. A. KITTLE.

On rural route No. 1, out of Sidney, this county, one-half mile south of that pleasant village, is a snug little farm of sixty acres, where, in a comfortable and hospitable home live E. A. Kittle and wife, well-known and popular residents of that part of the county.

E. A. Kittle was born on a farm in Wood county, Ohio, on September 21, 1854, son of John and Martha (Brisbin) Kittle, the former of whom was born in Holland and the latter in Ohio. John Kittle came to the United States in his early manhood and for a time lived in New York state, but later went to Ohio, where, in Wood county, he married Martha Brisbin and settled down on a small farm, where his three children were born, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary, wife of William Thomas, of Stanton, this county, and Alice, wife of Lawson Ackerman, of Wilson, New York. John Kittle died in 1856, his only son being at that time but two years of age, and his widow married again, to which second union three children were born, namely: Levi Hunsicker, of Stanton, this county; Rena, who married John Nillwood, of Evergreen township, this county, and C. J. Hunsicker, of McGuffey, Ohio. In 1866 the Hunsickers came to this county from Ohio, making the journey overland by "prairie schooner,"

and settled at Stanton. E. A. Kittle at that time was twelve years of age and he continued his school work in the schools of Stanton. Two years later his mother was killed by a falling tree and thus, at the age of fourteen, he was left to "shift for himself." He secured work in a shingle factory, where he worked for a wage of one dollar and fifty cents a day for about a year, at the end of which time he returned to Wood county, Ohio, where he went to work on a farm and continued his schooling during the winter months. Presently he returned to this county and resumed his former employment in the shingle mill, becoming in time an expert shingle packer, and was there employed until he bought his present farm on the outskirts of Sidney, where he ever since has lived very comfortably and very contentedly, he and his good wife enjoying the confidence and esteem of all who know them.

On May 14, 1876, E. A. Kittle was united in marriage to Eva J. Griffin, who was born in Warren county, New York, on December 1, 1853, daughter of Reuben and Mary J. Griffin, and who came to this county with her parents in 1860, she then being but six years of age. Her father enlisted for service in the Union army, in a Michigan regiment, in November, 1861, and was discharged in June, 1862, on a physician's certificate of disability. To Mr. and Mrs. Kittle but one child has been born, a daughter, Lulu M., born on October 2, 1878, who married C. J. Olin, of Douglass township, this county, and has four children, as follow: Reuben E., born on September 30, 1899; Herbert, January 29, 1904; Eva, July 5, 1908, and Mary, in April, 1910. Mrs. Kittle is a member of the congregational church and takes an active interest in the various beneficences of the same, being looked upon as one of the leaders in the several woman's aid movements in connection with the congregation.

Mr. Kittle is a Republican and for years has taken an active and influential part in local politics. For two terms he served as treasurer of Sidney township and in other ways has given of his time and energies to the public service. He is a member of Star Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, at Stanton, and Mrs. Kittle is a member of Chapter No. 47, Order of the Eastern Star, in which interesting woman's auxiliary to the Masonic order she for some time occupied the chair of Electa. She also is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps and in both of these organizations she takes a deep and active interest. Mr. and Mrs. Kittle are genial and hospitable in their relations with their neighbors and occupy a very high place in the estimation of the people of that community.

JOHN FINNEGAN.

One of the best-known and most popular farmers in Evergreen township, this county, is John Finnegan, who has been a resident of this county since 1866, in which year he came to Michigan and followed the timber woods until timber was pretty well exhausted in this section, after which he developed the farm which he had meanwhile bought and has resided there ever since, he and his good wife being among the most respected residents of that section. Their farm is a well-kept place on the state road in section 7, Evergreen township, rural route No. 5, out of Stanton.

John Finnegan was born in Willsborough, Essex county, New York, on February 28, 1837, son of Michael and Mary (McCusker) Finnegan, the former of whom was a native of Ireland and the latter of New York state, born of Irish parents.

Michael Finnegan was but a lad when his parents emigrated to this country and settled in New York state and it was there that he grew to manhood. There he married Mary McCusker, to which union fourteen children were born, of whom eight sons and one daughter are still living. Richard Finnegan, one of these sons, was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, the other sons being Thomas, Charles, William, James, George, Henry and John, the subject of this sketch.

John Finnegan was reared on the home farm in New York, receiving an excellent education in the schools of his home neighborhood. On May 18, 1866, he married Catherine Chambers, who was born in Lawrence county, New York, in 1844, and he and his bride at once came to Michigan, where Mr. Finnegan went into the lumber business. He became an expert timber man and presently was raised to the position of lumber inspector, a position he held as long as he remained in that business, which was until the timber had been pretty well cut out in this region. In the meantime he had bought the farm on which he is now living in Evergreen township, this county, and in 1880 he and his wife moved onto the same and straightway began to develop it, until it gradually was brought to its present excellent state of cultivation, a highly improved and delightful place of residence.

Mr. Finnegan is a Democrat and takes a proper degree of interest in the political movements of the times. For two years he served his home township in the capacity of supervisor, in which position he performed excellent service. He is regarded as one of the substantial men of his township and he and his wife are held in high esteem by their many friends thereabout.

ROSWELL FLECK.

Roswell Fleck, farmer of Belvidere township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Hillsdale county, this state, April 15, 1845, a son of John and Priscilla (Swager) Fleck. Mr. Fleck's father was probably born in Massachusetts (no exact record being obtainable), and was brought with his parents to Ohio, where they settled on a farm on the banks of the Sandusky river. There Mr. Fleck's father grew to manhood and was reared as a farmer. Both parents died in Ohio, and John moved to Hillsdale county, this state, where he located and married. He operated a grist-mill for many years in partnership with his brother, George. He was a life-long farmer, a man highly respected, who took an active part in the early development of Hillsdale county. Roswell Fleck is the youngest of a family of eight children, namely: George, Isabelle, Rose, Fletcher, Elizabeth, Leonard, Rachael and Roswell, and the latter is the only survivor. His mother died when he was very small and his father brought the children to Montcalm county, settling on a farm with his brother, George, about four miles east of Greenville, Fairplain township. There he married Mary Butterworth and to that union were born five children: Cyrus, of Mecosta county, this state; Frederick, of Sidney township, this county; John, deceased; Luella, now Mrs. Sharkey, of Richland township, and Charles, who died in infancy. John Fleck died in Sidney in 1874 at the age of sixty-eight years.

Roswell Fleck was sixteen years of age when he came to Fairplain township, Montcalm county, and in addition to being reared a farmer he also learned the carpenter's trade, following his two vocations together. He came to Six Lakes in 1875 and has accumulated considerable land in Belvidere township. His farm of two hundred and eighty acres is located about one-half mile east of Six Lakes and he took up his residence thereon in 1895 and follows general farming and stock raising.

On August 3, 1862, Roswell Fleck enlisted for service in the Civil War at Greenville, this state, as a private in Company F, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served two years and ten months. He was given an honorable discharge on June 25, 1865, having served in the western campaign and been engaged in the important battles of Perrysville, Chickamauga, Bentonville, Stone's River, the siege of Savannah, and many other skirmishes. He became ill with typhoid after the battle of Stone's River and was confined to a hospital for five months.

Roswell Fleck was married on December 17, 1865, to Helen C. Meil, born in the state of New York, September 20, 1847, a daughter of Charles Homer Meil and wife. (A history of the Meil family is given in connection with biography of L. M. Meil, probate judge at Stanton, presented elsewhere in this volume.) To Mr. and Mrs. Fleck were born three children, the eldest of whom, Percy, was married first to Amelia Newman and by her became the father of two children, Arlington and Mildred. After her death he married Maggie Erner, who has borne him four children, Lawrence, Catherine, Helen and Eleanor. Percy Fleck is a carpenter by trade and works in a factory at Greenville. Oscar and his wife, who was Edith Nevins, live at home with the father, assisting him in the work of the farm. They have four children, Harlan, Lucus, May Alice and Asa Guy. Inez, the youngest of the family, died on September 20, 1886. Mrs. Helen Fleck died on February 20, 1913.

On March 1, 1915, Mr. Fleck retired from the position of postmaster of Six Lakes, after having served for ten years. He is an active Republican and has served as clerk of Belvidere township for five terms and was formerly director and moderator of the school board. Mr. Fleck is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons through the local lodge at Six Lakes and is a faithful and devoted member of the First Congregational church of Six Lakes. Mr. Fleck is a man of many excellent qualities. He is public spirited, of unquestionable integrity and of a genial disposition which wins and holds friends.

JOSEPH B. STEERE.

One of the best-known young farmers in Montcalm county is Joseph B. Steere, proprietor of "Steere Farms," consisting of two hundred and thirty-six acres, situated on rural route No. 5, out of Stanton, in Evergreen township, five miles east and three miles south of the county seat.

Joseph B. Steere was born on a farm in Crystal Lake township, this county, on December 12, 1876, son of William and Emma (Tone) Steere, the former of whom was born in Lenawée county, this state, and the latter near the village of Bergen, in Genesee county, New York. Both were teachers in the public schools of Michigan and it was through this mutual relation that they met, the acquaintance quickly growing into a warmer attachment, which shortly was followed by marriage. Emma Tone was educated in her

home schools for the profession of teaching and came to Michigan to follow that vocation, being located in Ionia county, where William Steere also was teaching. Some time after their marriage, William Steere and his wife came to Montcalm county and bought a farm in Crystal Lake township, where they made a home and where they reared their family. They prospered and later added to their possessions by the purchase of a farm in Evergreen township. Both are now living comfortably retired at Crystal, where they have a pleasant home and where they enjoy the respect and esteem of their many friends. Mr. Steere is a Republican and is looked upon as one of Montcalm county's most substantial citizens. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. These children, eight in number, are all living, as follow: Edith, living in Crystal, a dressmaker and school teacher, who formerly was employed in a large establishment in Detroit; Joseph B., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Leonard, a well-known farmer in Evergreen township, this county; Ellen, formerly a teacher in the public schools of Montcalm county, now the wife of Peter Johnson; Dr. Thomas, a veterinary surgeon at Belding, this county; Electa, a graduate of Albion College, who is a well-known teacher in the schools of this county; Ethel, also a teacher, who was graduated from the high school, after which she took a course in the county normal, and Wilfred, a farmer in Crystal Lake township.

Joseph B. Steere was reared on the paternal farm in Crystal Lake township, receiving an excellent education in the neighborhood schools, and early devoted himself to farming. He married Lillian Scott, a graduate of the Sheridan high school, who was teaching in the public schools of the county, and they at once settled on the farm on which they are still living. To the sixty acres on which they began their farming operations, they have added, as prosperity has attended their efforts, until they are now the owners of two hundred and thirty-six acres of well-cultivated and productive land. Mr. Steere gives particular attention to the breeding of Holstein cattle and was the first man to introduce registered stock into his neighborhood. His excellent herd so headed by the locally noted "Carl Boss," and his Holsteins are in demand far and near. He also handles considerable high-grade stock of other kinds and is widely recognized as a progressive farmer.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Steere, William R., born on April 22, 1904, and Joseph B., Jr., December 20, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Steere are actively identified with the church work of their neighborhood and take a warm interest in the general social and cultural life of the community.

being held in high esteem by their many friends in that part of the county. Mr. Steere is a Republican and for years has taken an interested part in local politics. He has served the public as clerk and treasurer of the township and also has repeatedly been called on to represent his locality as a delegate to the county and state conventions of his party. He is an excellent farmer, a public-spirited and energetic citizen and a good neighbor and is held in high regard by all who know him.

ROBERT EVANS.

Robert Evans, a well-known and prosperous merchant at Fishville, this county, was chairman of the board of supervisors of Montcalm county during the time the new court house at Stanton was being erected and not only in the performance of that signal service on behalf of the public, but in many other ways ever has rendered his full duty as a citizen and as a man in this community. Though he is a native of a foreign country, there is no more patriotic American anywhere than Robert Evans, and he is regarded as one of Montcalm's most substantial citizens, a man who in all the relations of life is doing well his part.

Robert Evans was born in Ireland on February 22, 1844, one of the nine children of Richard and Ellen (McCarty) Evans. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Ellen Evans brought her family to America and settled in Livingston county, New York, where she died in 1875. Of her nine children, but four are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Ellen, widow of Timothy Cullinan; Mary Ann, wife of Daniel Cullinan, and Lizzie, a widow. Robert Evans was nineteen years of age when he came to America with his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters and for a time, during his early residence in Livingston county, New York, did whatever his hand found to do in order to help maintain the family. Following his marriage, in 1867, he came to Michigan and settled in Evergreen township, this county, and has lived here ever since, doing quite well. For some years he followed farming and still owns a fine farm of eighty-five acres in Evergreen township, but in 1884 he started his store at Fishville, and has ever since been actively engaged in merchandising. Not only has Robert Evans been diligent in his own business, but he has given much of his time and attention to public affairs and in that connection long ago earned the sincere approbation of the people of this county. For

twenty-two years he served the people of his vicinage faithfully as supervisor of Evergreen township and was chairman of the board of supervisors at the time of the erection of the new Montcalm county court house, doing well his duty in that important capacity.

On September 10, 1867, in Livingston county, New York, Robert Evans was united in marriage to Mary Wall, who also was born in Ireland, and to this union three children were born, of whom only one is now living, Nellie, wife of W. G. Long, of Ionia, this state. Mrs. Mary Evans died in 1875, and on April 22, 1879, Robert Evans married, secondly, Jennie E. Gallagher, also a native of Ireland, and to this latter union three children have been born, namely: Anna, who is the wife of Irving Greenhoy; Robert J., a traveling salesman, who lives at Mitchell, South Dakota, and Marian, who is a Sister of Charity. All of Mr. Evans's children have been graduated from some school and are doing well their respective parts in life. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are devout members of the Catholic church at Stanton and their children were reared in the faith of the mother church. The Evans family is held in high regard in the Fishville neighborhood and are active in all good works thereabout.

SAMUEL SUTTON.

The proprietor of "Plain View Farm," on the line between Evergreen and Day townships, two and one-half miles east of Stanton, in this county, on rural route No. 2, out of Stanton, is Samuel Sutton, who was born in Canada, on May 21, 1859, son of Peter and Anna (Misener) Sutton, natives of that dominion. At the age of fourteen he was thrown upon his own resources and all he has in the world has been gained by his own industrious efforts. For some years during his young manhood he worked at various odd jobs, but with the love of the farm ever uppermost, and he presently came to this county and finally acquired his present well-tilled farm of seventy-three acres in the Stanton vicinity, on which he has lived ever since and where he has made a comfortable competence for himself and his wife.

On July 14, 1900, Samuel Sutton was united in marriage to Elizabeth Chapin, who was born in Evergreen township, this county, a member of one of the best-known families in that neighborhood, and this good couple

are very pleasantly situated in their comfortable home and enjoy the esteem and respect of the whole community.

Mr. Sutton is a Democrat, but does not give much attention to politics, although an earnest advocate of the principles of good government, and is looked upon as one of the most substantial residents of that part of the county. He is a modest and unassuming man and an honored citizen of Montcalm county, who is held in high regard by all who know him.

FRANK A. TAYLOR.

Frank A. Taylor, who is well known as a farmer in Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Almont, Lapeer county, Michigan, on August 7, 1849. He is the son of J. R. and Adelia (Makepiece) Taylor, the former of whom was a native of Westfield, Massachusetts, and the son of James Taylor, of English descent.

J. R. Taylor lived in his native city until he reached the age of manhood, when he went to North Carolina to teach school. He taught school during slavery times and spent two years in the South before coming to Michigan for permanent residence. He brought with him to this state his wife, whom he had married in Westfield. Upon arriving in Michigan he took a homestead claim on one hundred and sixty acres of land, located two miles west of Almont. The occupation of clearing the land was begun at once and he lived on the tract just long enough to convert it into a farm attractive enough to sell. After selling the land he moved to Almont village and started a tannery, a line of work which proved profitable and interesting. He remained at this occupation for a period of twelve years and then traded the tannery for a farm three miles from Lapeer, where he lived for ten years on a farm which consisted of ninety-six acres. He later sold this farm and moved to Winona, where for two years he was employed in a drug store. Mr. Taylor then came to Coral, Michigan, where for ten years he conducted a general store. He lived here until his death, which occurred in 1880, twenty-two years after his wife had passed away.

By his first wife J. R. Taylor became the father of the following children: Clara, now deceased, who became the wife of Amos Palmerlee, of Romeo, Michigan; Knight, also deceased; James, who is living in Greenville, Michigan; Frank A. and Charles, who died at the age of fifty-two years. His second wife, who survived him, and whose name before her marriage

to Mr. Taylor was Mrs. Mary Strong, became the mother of a daughter, Lula, who married Rev. George Hunt, of Madison, Wisconsin.

Frank A. Taylor made his home with his father until the latter passed away. During his entire career as a farmer he worked in partnership with his father and at the time of the father's death took up the business which he continued for thirteen years. In 1893 he sold the place and bought eighty acres of land in section 5, of Maple Valley township, where he continued to reside. Since the time of his purchase he added eighty acres to the tract, which he later sold. Mr. Taylor is an expert in the line of general farming and enjoys a place of authority in the community in which he lives. On November 20, 1879, Frank A. Taylor was united in marriage to Carrie Allen.

In his political interests, the subject of this sketch gives firm support to the principles of the Republican party. He has always manifested a deep interest in educational affairs and for a number of years was a member of the township school board. He has also acted as moderator of his school district. The farm occupied by Mr. Taylor is known as "Maple Lawn Farm," which gives an idea of the attractiveness of its surroundings.

OSCAR W. WILSON.

One of the well-known farmers of Montcalm county, Michigan, is Oscar W. Wilson, who was born in 1854, in Eaton county, Michigan, and is the son of George and Lena (Fox) Wilson. George Wilson, who was born in England, came to this country at the age of eighteen years and settled in New York, where his marriage later took place. His wife, who was a native of Fort Plain, New York, accompanied her husband to Michigan in the early forties, and located in Kalmo, Eaton county, where the subject of this sketch was born in a log house. The family lived in Eaton county over fifteen years and at the end of that time moved to Sheridan, in Montcalm county, where the father had charge of a hotel business for four years. Later the family moved back to the original homestead and from there to Charlotte, Michigan, where Mr. and Mrs. Wilson passed the last days of their life.

Oscar Wilson remained on the farm belonging to his father until he was twenty-five years old. After his marriage he took up his residence on the farm in Eaton county, where he remained for five years. He bought the Horatio Sanborn farm in Sheridan, Montcalm county, which he managed

for five years. Before coming to Bloomer township, where he now resides, the subject of this sketch was occupied for nine years with farming on a place near Charlotte. The farm now occupied by the subject of this sketch consisted originally of one hundred and sixty acres, but since the time of the purchase forty acres have been added. It represents the latest designs in modern farm improvement, including stock buildings and drainage systems. Mr. Wilson is a breeder of Holstein cattle, of which he has thirty head.

In public affairs, Mr. Wilson has always played a prominent part. He was foremost in the movement which had for its purpose the construction of a drainage system from Butternut creek to Carson City. The work has greatly increased the value of the land it drains and has added materially to the industrial prosperity of Butternut. While the plans of its projection were in course Mr. Wilson sacrificed both time and personal expense to bring the subject before the people of his community.

The marriage of Oscar Wilson to Alice McClintick took place in 1877. She was born in Richland county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Jacob and Harriet (Swisher) McClintick. Jacob McClintick, who was of Irish extraction, followed the occupation of a farmer, and died just two years after his marriage. His wife, who was Harriet Swisher, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Ohio with her parents in the pioneer days and settled near Mansfield. After the death of her husband, Mrs. McClintick married David Dillon and continued to reside at Richland, Ohio. Until she was twelve years old, Alice McClintick lived at home, then came to Charlotte to make her home with an aunt. She received the advantages of a high school education and after completing the course qualified for the profession of teaching. Before her marriage to Mr. Wilson she taught for four years in the public schools of Charlotte.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have become the parents of the following children: George B., who married Irene Walsh, and who lives with his family of three children, Alice, Florence and Winston, on his father's farm; Harry, who was killed in an automobile accident in July, 1913, was survived by his wife, who was Eva Fitzpatrick, and one daughter, Louise; Hazel, who became the wife of Charles O. Squires, resides in Chicago, where her brother, Don M., also sides; Margaret, who lives at home, where she teaches school, attended the normal school at Mt. Pleasant, and Marie, who became the wife of Don C. Conklin, lives in Redlands, California, and has a son, Calvin. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson attend the Congregational church and are prominent in the social affairs of Butternut and vicinity.

FRED D. BRIGGS.

The late Fred D. Briggs, of Langston, Pine township, this county, was one of the greatest factors for the progress of the community. He was born on April 7, 1861, in Handy, Livingston county, Michigan, and was the son of Nathan N. and Hannah D. (Lang) Briggs. Nathan Briggs was the son of Benjamin Briggs, who was one of the founders of the Briggs family in America. This family was formerly of England and Ireland and the descendants came from New York to Michigan, about 1837, locating in Montcalm county. Hannah D. (Lang) Briggs was the daughter of Daniel Lang, who was the founder of the town of Langston, in Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan. The Lang family also were from England and Ireland and migrated from New York to Michigan, in the early days, being among the first settlers of Montcalm county.

Fred D. Briggs was but two years of age when he came with his parents to the town of Langston, Michigan, where he was reared and where he remained until his death. His education was received in the schools of **Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan**, only a few miles distant from his home. Almost immediately upon the completion of his student days he accepted a position with R. F. Srague, manager of the Grand Rapids & Greenville Lumber Company, in the capacity of bookkeeper. In 1882, Fred D. Briggs and E. O. Bellows engaged in the general merchandise business, but after a short time Fred D. Briggs purchased the entire stock and continued to manage the trade alone until his death, on April 16, 1915. The political views of Fred D. Briggs were strongly Democratic, as were those of his father, Nathan Briggs. He was very active in all local elections, and held all of the township offices, being township supervisor for eight years prior to his death. His fraternal relations were with the Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Ancient Order of Gleaners, all of whom mourned his loss sincerely and with deepest sorrow.

On June 19, 1895, in Montcalm county, Fred D. Briggs was united in marriage to Mabel Stickney, daughter of Sumner and Kate (Fisk) Stickney, and four children blessed their union: Fred N., born on May 10, 1898; Mabel L., June 27, 1902; Vivian, April 30, 1908, and Barbara, June 29, 1912. Mabel Stickney was born on February 20, 1877, in Big Rapids, Michigan, and after her marriage became a true helpmate to her husband, gaining the goodwill and respect of all who know her. Her father was of Scotch descent and her mother English, and both were in business



FRED D. BRIGGS.

together, having been registered pharmacists. They came to Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1886, from the town of Big Rapids, Mecosta county, Michigan, where the father had been in the banking business in connection with his drug shop. He installed the first stock of drugs in Mecosta county, and was very prominent in that locality.

THOMAS J. CLIFFE.

Widely known in this business relations and personally held in high esteem as a man of character and integrity is Thomas J. Cliffe, whose birth took place in Michigan, near Detroit, on November 6, 1834. His parents, Thomas and Rhoda (Javens) Cliffe, were both natives of England, and shortly after their marriage came to this country. In his native country, Thomas Cliffe, Sr., was employed in a drug store and for some time conducted a general store near The Potteries, Staffordshire, England. After arriving in America, which was probably in 1832, he and his wife settled on a farm near Detroit, which they bought. Five years later the couple returned to England, where they remained a year. Upon returning to this country Thomas Cliffe again took up the occupation of farming, but his happiness in this work was saddened by the death of his wife.

At the time of his mother's death, Thomas Cliffe, Jr., was six years old and was taken by a family in Canada, who kept him for two years. He was then passed on to another family and as soon as he was able was sent out to work. From earliest childhood Thomas Cliffe, who is now one of the most prosperous farmers of the community in which he lives, has been obliged to support himself. At the age of fourteen he worked for the sum of eight dollars a month, but the meager pay was compensated by the kindness of the members of the family with whom he lived. After he reached the age of twenty-one he learned the stone-mason's trade, in which line he became unusually skillful and which held his attention until he was thirty-six years old.

In 1857 Mr. Cliffe came to Montcalm county and bought a piece of land consisting of forty acres, which is located one mile south of his present home, in the southern part of Bloomer township. At the time of the purchase the land was covered almost entirely with timber, which Mr. Cliffe used to build a cabin. He cleared half of the land and went to Palmyra,

Michigan, where he remained a year. In 1861 he bought the farm which he now occupies, which is located west of Bloomer Center. The farm consisted of fifty acres, to which Mr. Cliffe added forty acres more ten years later. During the first years of his occupancy of this farm, he was obliged to work at the mason's trade, as his earnings on the farm were not large.

The marriage of Thomas Cliffe to Martha Ann Howe was solemnized on December 15, 1855. Mrs. Cliffe, who was born on June 10, 1833, in Foxcroft, Maine, is the daughter of James and Cynthia (Jackson) Howe, the former of whom was born in New Brunswick and the latter was a native of Maine. Before Martha Ann Howe was nine years old her parents moved to Mentor, Ohio, and later to Toledo. Her father died when she was nineteen years old in Adrian, Ohio, where for some time he had made his home. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cliffe the following children have been born: Sarah, the widow of Marshall St. Clair, who resides with her parents; Libby, who became the wife of George Evey, of Colorado Springs; Nina, who married Daniel Bell, also of Colorado Springs; Otis, who resides near Lake View, of this county; George I., of Bloomer township; a boy, Owen, died when he was fourteen, and a daughter died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Cliffe, who have been married sixty years, attend the Methodist church, where they are loyal members of the congregation.

George I. Cliffe, the son of Thomas J. Cliffe, was born on the farm where he now resides, west of Bloomer Center, in Montcalm county. After completing the course offered in the public schools of the community in which he lived, George I. Cliffe attended the State Normal School, at Ypsilanti, where he qualified for the profession of teaching. He taught school during one year and at the end of that time took up the occupation of farming, on his father's place. Later he bought eighty acres, adjoining his father's land, on which he lived for three years. At the present time he owns one hundred and thirty acres of improved farm land and resides in one of the two houses which have been erected on his father's farm.

On April 29, 1896, George I. Cliffe was united in marriage to Bertha Cooper, who was born just one mile east of her present home and who is the daughter of Thomas J. and Emma (Crownor) Cooper. Thomas Jefferson Cooper was born on February 18, 1846, in Jefferson county, New York. His parents, Edward and Elizabeth (Winner) Cooper, were both natives of New York. Thomas Cooper attended the high school at Antwerp, New York, which was known at that time as the Antwerp Liberal Literary Institute. At the age of twenty-one he came to Montcalm county and settled on

a farm two miles south of Carson City, which consisted of eighty acres. He lived on this farm until March, 1911, when he moved to Carson City, where he now resides.

On November 20, 1867, Thomas J. Cooper married Emma Crowner, a native of Jefferson county, New York, and the daughter of Joel and Antis (Lamb) Crowner. The children born to this union are: Clarence, who resides in Evergreen township, and who married Deborah Corey; Cora, the wife of Otis Cliffe, of Lake View; Bertha, the wife of George I. Cliffe; Leslie, who married Gay Johnson and who resides on his father's farm, and Mildred, who became the wife of Fred Mitchell and who lives near Bloomer Center. Mr. Cooper is a prominent member of the Methodist church, which he has attended since he was eighteen years old. In 1901, after the death of his first wife, Mr. Cooper married Maria H. Brice, a native of North Shade township, Gratiot county, Michigan, and the daughter of William and Rebecca (Harlow) Brice, both of whom were natives of Kent county, England, where Mr. Brice was a shepherd. He became well known in North Shade township, where for four years he served as county treasurer. On the 23rd of February, 1907, he died in Ithica. By his first marriage the following children were born: Richard, Maria and Ella; and by his second wife, John N. and Celestia were born.

George Cliffe and his wife have always been devout members of the Methodist church and contribute generously to its welfare. They have become the parents of one daughter, Joy Marie.

GEORGE E. CORNELL.

George E. Cornell, the well-known and popular merchant of Six Lakes, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in the state of New York, in Cattaraugus county, on his father's farm, December 7, 1876. He is a son of Merritt B. and Mary (Henderson) Cornell, both natives of the state of New York. M. B. Cornell was born in Cattaraugus county, August 25, 1847, being a son of Brownell and Rachael (Ellis) Cornell.

Brownell Cornell was one of the pioneers of Cattaraugus county. He was born in Onondaga county, New York, in 1800, where he was educated and grew to manhood. He married in his native county and with his family went to Cattaraugus county about 1840. He secured a tract of wild land which was all timbered and set about clearing it. In later years his farm

became quite valuable, being on the line of the Erie railroad, but in the early days he was far distant from a market, the nearest being Buffalo, forty miles away. Brownell Cornell lived on that farm until his death, at the age of seventy-seven years, in 1877, while his wife lived until 1882, and died at the age of eighty-three. She was a daughter of Benjamin Ellis, of Cherry Valley, New York, where she grew to womanhood. She was twice married, her first husband being George Worden, and they made their home after marriage in New Albany, Cattaraugus county. She had four children by Mr. Worden, namely: Elizabeth, Amanda, Emeline, deceased, and Jeanette. After being widowed she married Brownell Cornell and bore him three children: Merritt B., Amenzo and George, all deceased.

Merritt B. Cornell grew up on his father's farm in Cattaraugus county, receiving his elementary education in the schools near his home. He later attended Chamberlain Institute in Randolph, New York, and for fourteen years engaged in teaching school. Mr. Cornell married in his native county in 1873 Mary J. Henderson, born in New Albion, of the same county, May 30, 1857, a daughter of Benjamin Harrison and Betsy Henderson, and to that union were born six children, five of whom are living. These are George Emmett, Grace, Ralph, Amenzo and Alta. Grace is the wife of A. J. Doty, of Harbor Springs, Michigan; Ralph is a farmer of Belvidere township, this county; Amenzo remains at home, and Alta married J. J. Leach, and also lives in Belvidere township.

Merritt B. Cornell went to Iowa in 1867 and remained there about six years. He then returned to his native county and remained there until 1894, when he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, locating in Belvidere township. The first year he rented land of S. R. Hillman and then bought a forty-acre tract, later adding another of the same size. The land was partly improved, some of the timber had been cut, but the stumps remained and the land was not ready for cultivation. There was a small house, which he rebuilt, adding barns and other outbuildings and greatly improving the entire place.

Merritt B. Cornell is an active worker in the ranks of the Prohibition party, but has never aspired to office. He is interested, however, in the local affairs of his party and for the past three years has been a member of the school board, as well as truant officer. Both Mr. Cornell and his wife are active workers in the United Brethren church at Six Lakes and he is a member of the board of trustees. Many years ago Mr. Cornell became a Free and Accepted Mason, but is not now active in the work of the order.

George Emmett Cornell received his education in the public schools of Cattaraugus county. He was eighteen years of age when his parents brought their family to this county. He was reared on a farm but engaged for a number of years in teaching school. He taught his first term in New York and fourteen years in Belvidere township, nine years being passed as principal of the Six Lakes schools. In 1902 Mr. Cornell, in partnership with Martin Wilder, started in the general merchandise business at Six Lakes, which partnership continued for two years. Mr. Cornell then disposed of his interests to Mr. Wilder and about two years later opened another store for himself and has since given his entire attention to his business. He has a stock of general merchandise, including groceries, hardware, ladies' and gents' furnishings, dry goods, etc. He is progressive in his ideas, has a fine stock of goods and does a lucrative business. Personally, he is a popular man, congenial and possessing such characteristics as enable him to deal with patrons in a way satisfactory to all.

George E. Cornell was married on June 15, 1902, to Lillian Wilder, born at Colon, in St. Joseph county, this state, September 2, 1883. She is a daughter of Martin F. and Emma (Ensign) Wilder. Martin Wilder was born on February 22, 1860, at Griggs Corners, Ashtabula county, Ohio, a son of Rufus and Betsy Elizabeth (Wilder) Wilder, and was brought to this state when a small child. He grew up in St. Joseph county, where he received his education and was married on December 2, 1882. Emma Ensign, his wife, was born at Battle Creek, Calhoun county, this state, a daughter of Samuel and Susan (Smith) Ensign. To their union were born three children, the eldest of which is Lillian, wife of George E. Cornell; Lizzie, wife of William R. Love, and Martin, Jr., who is still at home. Mr. Wilder is a blacksmith by trade and worked in Colon and vicinity for about fifteen years. He moved to Greenville, this state, where he remained about ten months and then went to Stanwood, where he stayed two years. He came to Six Lakes in 1911 and went into the general merchandise business. He later on disposed of his stock of goods and was on the road for a time as traveling representative for an implement house and in the spring of 1915 he went into the restaurant business in Six Lakes.

George E. Cornell and wife are the parents of two children, Lucile, born on January 20, 1906, and Margaret, October 27, 1908. Mr. Cornell gives his political support to the Republican party and is one of its most active workers in this section. For the past eight years, with the exception of one year, he has been township clerk of Belvidere township and takes

much interest generally in local matters. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Maccabees and the Gleaners, all through the local lodges at Six Lakes. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cornell are members of the Congregational church and take an active part in the affairs of same. Both are members of the Eastern Star.

WILLIAM R. BENNETT.

Among the successful farmers and well-known citizens of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is William R. Bennett, who was born in Brant county, Ontario, Canada, on October 27, 1863, a son of Josiah B. and Martha (McClellan) Bennett, the former born in Beverly township, Brant county, Canada, a son of Thomas and Sophia (Neff) Bennett; the latter born in Simcoe county, Ontario, a daughter of Samuel McClellan and wife.

Josiah B. Bennett, following his school days in Canada, learned the trade of a carpenter, which he followed in his native community for some time and then moved to Waterloo county, Ontario, living there for two years, after which he went to Brant county, making his home there until 1881. About this time the elder Bennett moved to Michigan, and located on a farm of eighty acres, which he secured in Douglass township, this county, clearing and improving this land and living as a general farmer for the remainder of his days. Josiah B. Bennett died on August 5, 1903; his widow, Martha, died on October 18, 1903. Josiah B. and Martha Bennett were the parents of five children: Jeremiah A., of Douglass township; John J., of Big Rapids, Mecosta county, Michigan; William R., of Douglass township, this county; Josiah, who died in 1899, and Hattie, who now is Mrs. James Berrington, of Hillsdale county, Michigan. Josiah B. Bennett was a member of the United Brethren church, in Canada, and politically was a Tory in that country, although he did not take an especial part in the political life of Michigan, further than to exercise his right of suffrage. Mrs. Bennett was a member and worker of the Wesleyan Methodist church, of Montcalm county.

William R. Bennett had completed his education in the schools of his native county, and was sixteen years of age when he moved, with his parents to Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he lived and worked on the home farm until after his marriage, when he secured forty

acres of the home farm and became an independent farmer. On his farm Mr. Bennett proceeded to place the necessary improvements, and has added land until now he owns eighty acres, which is well cultivated and well cared for by this progressive farmer. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Bennett makes a specialty of raising good grade live stock.

On March 28, 1907, William R. Bennett was married to Mrs. Josiah Bennett, widow of a brother, Josiah, who died in 1899. Mr. and Mrs. William R. Bennett became the parents of one child, Bessie May, born on March 14, 1910. By her former marriage, Mrs. Bennett is the mother of three children: Ruby, born on August 16, 1894, now the wife of Benjamin Rickets, a painter of Alma, Montcalm county; Margie, January 11, 1896, and Luella, June 26, 1898.

Mrs. Bennett was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, Canada, on June 24, 1873, a daughter of Thomas and Anna Jane (Simmons) Connor, the former born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1833; the latter born in Ireland on June 4, 1840.

Thomas Connor came to America and settled in New York state about 1851, and after living there for some time he moved to Canada and located near Toronto, where he was married and where he lived as a shoemaker, until April 1881, when he moved his family to Montcalm county, Michigan, and bought eighty acres of uncleared and heavily-wooded land, which they cleared and improved. He died in November, 1882, and his wife died in May, 1893. Ann Jane, the wife of Thomas Connor, was but three years of age when she came to America with her parents, William and Mary Simmons, and located near Quebec, Canada, where Ann Jane grew to maturity and was married. Thomas and Ann Jane Connor were the parents of nine children: Thomas, who is deceased; Robert, of Nebraska; George, of Albion, Michigan; Charles, of Nebraska; Mary, who is the wife of Andrew King, of Douglass township, this county; Henry, who lives near Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio; Dorothy, the wife of William R. Bennett; Anna, the wife of Henry Petrie, of Lansing, Michigan, and Maud, who is deceased.

Dorothy, the wife of William R. Bennett, came with her parents to Montcalm county, Michigan, when eight years of age, was educated in the schools of this community and later became the wife of Josiah Bennett, after whose death she became the wife of William R. Bennett. Mrs. Bennett is a member of the Baptist church at Edmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett are among the highly respected people of this community, numbering a host of friends among the residents of Montcalm county and vicinity.

JOHN WESLEY GAFFIELD.

John Wesley Gaffield, of Six Lakes, Montcalm county, Michigan, well known as ex-sheriff of the county and retired business man, was born in Northumberland county, Ontario, Canada, April 2, 1853, a son of John and Mary (Moore) Gaffield. Both of Mr. Gaffield's parents were born in New York state, his father in 1815 and his mother on April 17, 1833. Mr. Gaffield's father was engaged in farming all the active years of his life and died in 1907, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. His mother, however, still lives and makes her home in Winfield township, being wonderfully strong and active for her eighty-three years. John Gaffield was twice married, his first wife being Sarah Heth, who bore him five children, namely: Bartlett, of Canada; Byron, deceased; Charles, of Lakeview, Michigan; Martha, deceased, and Mary (Mrs. Bibby), of New York state. The second Mrs. Gaffield had two children, the elder being John Wesley, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Benson L., who lives on the old home farm in Winfield township, this county.

John Wesley Gaffield remained on the home farm of one hundred and sixty acres until 1893, when he moved to Lakeview, and then upon being elected sheriff of Montcalm county he moved to Stanton, the county seat. He took his office on January 1, 1906, and served for four years. In 1911, after the expiration of his term of office, he moved to Six Lakes and went into the general merchandise business. He bought out Fayette Rice and also operated the grain elevator and flour-mill. After disposing of his interests in the store in August, of 1914, he continued to operate the mill with the assistance of his two sons, under the firm style of J. W. Gaffield & Sons. On May 16, 1915, he sold the elevator to Wallace & Orr, of Saginaw, and is now practically retired from the more active duties of life.

Mr. Gaffield received his education in Canada and left there at the age of twenty-one years in company with his parents on September 1, 1874. They came direct to Winfield township, this county, settling on the farm there, which has come to be known as the old homestead.

John W. Gaffield was married in 1877 to Kate Bushley, born on September 26, 1855, in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Charles and Eliza Bushley, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter born in Ireland. To Mr. and Mrs. Gaffield have been born four children: Elma, wife of Leroy Stebbins, of Lakeview, this county; Bertha, who died at the age of nine years; Sidney C., at home with his parents and engaged in the produce and

implement business, is township treasurer of Belvidere, taking office on April 1, 1915, and Avery, who married Ruby Rice and lives at Six Lakes, where he is cashier of the Six Lakes State Bank, and they have one child, Eugene.

Mr. Gaffield is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, through the local lodge at Six Lakes. He is one of the most active Republicans of the county, and in addition to being county sheriff for four years, served as township supervisor of Winfield township while he lived there and also township treasurer of Belvidere township for two years, being also a member of Lakeview town council while a resident there. While not a member of any church, Mr. Gaffield is an attendant on the services of the Congregational church, of which his wife is a member. He is regarded as one of the representative men of the county, keen in business matters, of sound ideas, well liked by all and possessed of sterling character.

JEREMIAH A. BENNETT.

Jeremiah A. Bennett, a successful farmer and a highly esteemed and appreciated minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal church, in Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, on October 2, 1857, a son of Josiah B. and Martha (McClellan) Bennett, natives of Canada, the former born in Beverly township, Brant county, Ontario; the latter in Simcoe county, Ontario.

Josiah B. Bennett was a son of Thomas and Sophia (Neff) Bennett, the former born of English descent at Burlington Bay, where Hamilton, Canada, now is located; the latter born of Dutch stock, in Pennsylvania. Thomas Bennett, together with his father, at one time was the owner of about two hundred and fifty acres of land on the present site of Hamilton, Canada, he having been a farmer and also engaged in mercantile business in his community. At one time Thomas Bennett also conducted a tavern in Waterloo county, Ontario, and was a prominent man of his locality, for many years having served as a constable and as a bailiff. Later in life Thomas Bennett and his family moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, where the elder Bennett spent his last days. Sophia, the wife of Thomas Bennett, died in Canada.

After completing his education in the common schools of his Canadian home, Josiah B. Bennett learned the trade of a carpenter, following this trade in Waterloo county, Ontario, for some time and then he went to Brant

county, Canada, where he lived until the winter of the year 1881. He then came to Michigan, and located on a farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, which he cleared and improved and where he died on August 5, 1903.

Josiah B. Bennett was married, while a resident of Waterloo county, Ontario, to Martha McClellan, a daughter of Samuel McClellan and wife, of New Brunswick, the latter of whom died when her daughter, Martha, was quite young. To the marriage of Josiah B. and Martha Bennett were born five children: Jeremiah, John J., of Big Rapids, Michigan; William R., of Douglass township, Montcalm county; Josiah, who died in 1899, and Hattie, now Mrs. James Berrington, of Hillsdale county, Michigan. Mrs. Bennett died on October 18, 1903.

Politically, Josiah B. Bennett was a Tory while in Canada, but after coming to Michigan, he took no part in political affairs further than to exercise his privilege of voting. Mr. Bennett was a member of the United Brethren church in Canada. The wife of Mr. Bennett became a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, at Westville, Day township, this county.

Jeremiah A. Bennett had received his early education in the schools of Canada, and was a young man when he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, and with his parents located on a farm in Douglass township. Shortly after reaching Montcalm county, Jeremiah A. Bennett, desiring to become an independent farmer, rented a farm which he cultivated for five years, after which he purchased twenty acres of the home farm. He farmed on this land for about five years and then turning his place over to his brother Josiah, Jeremiah A. Bennett accepted his ordination at Blanchard, Michigan, in 1891, and became a minister of the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal church, serving three churches—two in Arenac county and one in Ogemaw county. With his first three charges the Reverend Bennett was connected for two years and then he moved to Wexford county, Michigan, and for one year served the church at Hobart. He then went to White Hall for one year, then to Hobart, Michigan, for two years, and then to Solon Center, Kent county, Michigan, for three years, then back to Hobart for three years, then to Avondale, Osceola county, Michigan, for one year. Rev. Jeremiah Bennett then assumed the management of his farm, engaging in general agricultural pursuits and at the same time serving as pastor of the church at Entrican, in which capacity he now serves in his usual kindly and able manner. Jeremiah A. Bennett has added to his original farm and now cultivates forty acres of well-improved soil, as well as caring for his ministerial duties.

On December 25, 1880, Jeremiah A. Bennett was married to Drusilla

Lee, a daughter of James Bruce and Eliza (Welch) Lee, the former of whom was born near Troy, Canada, on September 17, 1841, a son of Peter and Rebecca (Shafer) Lee. James Bruce Lee lived in his native country until after his marriage, when he moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, at the same time engaging in the duties of his trade as a carpenter, throughout the community.

Jeremiah A. and Druzilla Bennett became the parents of two children, one child who died on August 18, 1882, and Lula Pearl, born on September 25, 1891, and who is the wife of Merrill Beers, of Alma, Michigan, they being the parents of one child, Leota May.

Jeremiah A. Bennett was a member of the Grange, in Canada, but since coming to the United States has not affiliated himself with any fraternal organization. Politically, Jeremiah A. Bennett is independent of party, further than the fact that he supports the Prohibition party with his vote. As a farmer Jeremiah A. Bennett has been notably successful, and as a minister he is well-known and esteemed by all, his kindly and powerful personality, combined with the intelligent use of his well-read and active mind having given him a place of prominence among the ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist church in this community.

THOMAS G. CROOKS.

Thomas G. Crooks, leading farmer and prominent citizen of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Port Hope, Canada, on September 8, 1868, a son of Hugh and Mary (Comden) Crooks, the former a native of Ireland, born near Cork, a son of James Crooks and wife.

Hugh Crooks, when quite young, came to America with his parents and located in Canada, where the parents died and where Hugh Crooks grew to maturity, taking up the duties of life as a sailor. The elder Crooks followed his vocation as a sailor until seven years after his marriage, when he became a farmer and engaged in general agricultural pursuits in Canada, until 1869, when he moved to Oakland county, Michigan, later coming to Montcalm county, and settling on a farm in section 7, Douglass township. Hugh Crooks cultivated his farm of forty acres in Douglass township for the remainder of his days, dying on October 8, 1902. Mary, the widow of Hugh Crooks now makes her home with her children. Hugh and Mary Crooks became the parents of thirteen children: Elizabeth, wife of George

McClelland, of Lansing, Michigan; Anna, deceased; James, deceased; Thomas G., William, deceased; Mina, deceased; Grace, wife of Charles Miller, of Mecosta county, Michigan; Wesley, of Lowell, Michigan; Frank, of Lansing; Edward, of Grand Lodge; Charles, of Douglass township, this county; Pearl, wife of Leroy Sparks, of Flint, Michigan, and Nettie, wife of Charles Kendle, of Lansing, Michigan. Following the death of her husband, Mary Crooks became the wife of John Savage, who is now deceased.

Thomas G. Crooks was but one year of age when he came with his parents, to Oakland county, Michigan, where he lived until 1887, and then moved to Douglass township, this county. Mr. Crooks was reared a farmer, working some time as a helper on neighboring farms and then, after his marriage, secured a farm of eighty acres, in section 7, Douglass township, which he improved and where he engaged in general agricultural pursuits for seventeen years. He then sold his land and moved to Entrican, where he conducted a general merchandise store for two years, at the end of that time disposing of his stock to R. A. Pintler, and returning to the farm of forty acres which he now cultivates.

During the year 1888, Thomas G. Crooks was married to Lodena Bennett, who was born in Douglass township, this county, and to this marriage have been born six children: Gilbert J., a farmer of Douglas township, who married Nina Cross, a daughter of Charles Cross and wife, and they are the parents of one child, Charles; Elton B., a farmer of Douglass township, who married Catherine Cook; Evelyn, wife of Byron Cook, they being the parents of one child, Elnora; Berdenia, Eva and Margaret, who live at home.

Mrs. Crooks is a daughter of Josiah and Adeline (Lee) Bennett, the former born in Beverly township, Brant county, Ontario, Canada, a son of Charles and Amanda (Van Nevery) Bennett. Josiah Bennett was educated in the public schools of Canada, after which he became a farmer, engaging in this work until after his marriage when he came to Michigan and located on a farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, Montcalm county. After improving his farm, Mr. Bennett lived there until 1878, when he rented his land to a son-in-law and moved to Ionia county, where he cultivated a fine eighty-acre farm known as the Kendall farm, located about two and one-half miles south of Palo. Two years later, Josiah Bennett returned to his farm near Entrican, Douglass township, Montcalm county, afterward going to Canada, where he farmed for a number of years. He then returned to Douglas township, this county, and built a home where Thomas G. Crooks now lives, the elder Bennett living at this place for the remainder of his days. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were members of the United Brethren church. They

were the parents of five children: Stella, Lodena, Alma, deceased; Millie, deceased, and Alma, who now is Mrs. Swarthout.

Thomas G. Crooks has taken a prominent place in the official life of Douglass township for many years, having served as highway commissioner for seven years, and was a member of the school board for many terms, during which time he served as moderator and was otherwise influential in the conduct of school affairs in this district. In politics, Mr. Crooks is an ardent Republican. At one time Mr. Crooks was a well-known member of the Knights of the Maccabees, but he now is not active in this organization.

SAMUEL J. COMDEN.

Samuel J. Comden, successful farmer and prominent citizen of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, Canada, on May 8, 1874, a son of A. J. and Sarah (Widdess) Comden, the former a native of England and the latter of Ontario, Canada.

When an infant, Samuel J. Comden came with his parents to Oakland county, Michigan, where he lived until six years of age and then moved, with his parents, to Douglass township, Montcalm county, in the schools of which county he was educated and where he lived as a farmer on the home place until after his marriage. About the year 1896, Mr. Comden moved from the home farm, to the town of Entrican, where he secured property and where, for four years, he was associated with Arthur Steere in the conduct of a general store, and for four years with Herman Smith in the same store. While living at Entrican, Samuel J. Comden secured a farm located south of the town, which land Mr. Comden later sold and then purchased his present farm of forty acres in section 9, Douglass township, this county. Mr. Comden has improved his farm, equipped it with the most approved appliances and now engages in general agricultural pursuits.

On January 9, 1895, Samuel J. Comden was married to Gertrude Parker, who was born in Oakland county, Michigan, a daughter of John L. and Anna (Taylor) Parker, natives of Somersetshire, England, who came to America, with their respective parents, and settled in Onondago county, New York, where they were married, later moving to Pine township, Montcalm county, where Mr. Parker died on June 24, 1908, his widow, Anna, now living in Entrican.

To the marriage of Samuel J. and Gertrude Comden have been born

five children: Earl, at home; Alta, a farmer of Douglass township, who married Orla Cross; A. J.; Avon and Irving.

During the years 1909-10, Samuel J. Comden served as highway overseer of Douglass township, Montcalm county; for four years was commissioner of highways in this township, and now Mr. Camden is making an excellent record as a trustee of the district school board in this community. Politically, Mr. Comden is a Republican.

Samuel J. Comden is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Entrican, Montcalm county, he being past noble grand, as well as one of the first members of this organization in this locality. Mr. Comden, together with his wife, is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah. Mrs. Comden is active in church and Sunday school work of the Methodist church at Entrican.

NICHOLAS C. MERRIFIELD.

Nicholas C. Merrifield, of Belvidere township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Ashland county, Ohio, May 17, 1846, a son of Joseph H. and Barbara (Fast) Merrifield. Joseph was probably born in Vermont, as his father was a native of that state, and came to Lorain county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and later went to Ashland county. It was there he married Barbara Fast, whose parents were German, and came to Ohio from Pennsylvania. Barbara was probably born in Pennsylvania, being brought to Ohio by her parents, and grew up in Ashland county, near Troy, and about eleven miles from the city of Ashland. Joseph and Barbara Merrifield were the parents of five children: Nathan Darius, born on July 22, 1842, and died on February 15, 1904; Isaac Wesley, died in 1887; Orilla (Mrs. Smith), of Albany, Oregon; Nicholas C., the subject of this sketch, and George, residing in Alaska.

Joseph Merrifield was a life-long farmer. Upon coming to this state he located first in Saginaw county, later went to Barry county, locating in Rutlin township, and it was at his farm home in that county that he died in June, 1876, aged about sixty-three years. Barbara Merrifield lived until March 31, 1895, and died at the age of seventy-two years, nine months and thirteen days.

Nicholas C. Merrifield was about seven years of age when his parents came to Michigan and he received his education mostly while the family was living in Barry county. He was reared by his father as a farmer and mar-

ried on August 15, 1866, in Rutlin township, Barry county, his bride being Malissa J. Belding, born on April 20, 1847, in Lake county, Ohio, a daughter of Sherman and Lucetta (Vedder) Belding. Sherman Belding was a native of Vermont, and Lucetta Vedder was born in Ashtabula county, New York, January 18, 1829, and died on December 25, 1912. Sherman enlisted for service in the Civil War from Ionia county, this state, being a member of Company E, Sixth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. He saw much active service and contracted a serious illness which confined him in the hospital at Fortress Monroe for a considerable time, and where his death occurred in 1865. When quite a young man he accompanied his parents from Vermont to Ohio and was married at Paynesville, Lake county, that state. He was a farmer all his life and left at his death a widow and five children, namely: Washington H., deceased; Malissa J., wife of Nicholas Merrifield; Maryette, deceased, and two children who died in infancy.

Mrs. Merrifield grew to womanhood in Michigan and after her marriage in Barry county to Mr. Merrifield they came, in 1876, to Montcalm county, locating in Belvidere township in 1886 on a farm. Several years later they came to Six Lakes and engaged in the general merchandise business, Mrs. Merrifield managing the millinery department of the store. They continued in that business for about fifteen years, when they sold out and moved to their present home. The farm at that time contained but forty acres, but Mr. Merrifield is now farming sixty acres. It was covered with stumps and marshy when he came to it, but he has improved it and now it is the finest land and he carries on general farming. All buildings are in good repair and it is a nice farm home. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Merrifield. Minnie Luella, the eldest, was born on December 15, 1867, and is the wife of Hero Taylor, living in North Dakota. They have three children, Mildred, Vivian and Florence. Wilbur Morris was born on January 6, 1872, and married Veno Wolfe. He lives at West Branch, this state, and has two children, Beatrice and Dorlo. Francis C. was born on April 17, 1881, and makes his home with his parents, having the management of the farm mostly in hand.

Mr. Merrifield has been engaged in various callings since coming here. When he first became a citizen of Montcalm county he drilled wells for several years. He learned the business by practical experience and put down many wells in the course of a few years. For about fifteen years he was a funeral director at Six Lakes, being associated with W. H. Youngman, of Lakeview, in this work and later with LaClear & Kirtland, of Edmore, hav-

ing charge of their local work from Six Lakes. Also, before coming to Montcalm county, Mr. Merrifield worked in the lumber camps in this county. He has, therefore, had a wide experience in various lines of business and is a broad-minded and practical man.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Merrifield are active workers in the Congregational church at Six Lakes. He took an active part in building the church, not only in a financial way, but in actual labor, drawing most of the stone to lay the foundation. He is at present serving as trustee, has been deacon and Sunday school superintendent for years, and is now teacher of an adult Bible class. Mrs. Merrifield also is a teacher in the school and has been secretary for a number of years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Merrifield were at one time members of the Maccabees, but have dropped that fraternal work. He is active in the ranks of the Republican party and takes an active interest in local affairs. For fourteen years he served as justice of the peace of Belvidere township, being out of office one year in the interim. Mr. Merrifield is a man of pleasing personality, highly regarded by all who know him, for the years spent here have proven him to be a man of sterling character, kind and sympathetic to all. His wife is a woman of equally noble character, capable and endowed with all those womanly traits which are most winning.

WILLIAM A. WOOD.

Among the most popular and successful men of Montcalm county, Michigan, and one who has been active in its affairs for many years, is William A. Wood. Mr. Wood was born in this state, in Woodland township, Barry county, July 29, 1853, a son of Hiram and Elida (Young) Wood. Hiram Wood was born in Carlton township, Orleans county, in the western portion of the state of New York, on July 16, 1823, a son of Moses and Elsie Wood, both natives of New York state. Hiram Wood moved to Barry county, Michigan, some time in the early forties, during the early pioneer days of this section, and took an active part in the early affairs of the county. He was its first sheriff and assumed many other duties in order to assist in bringing about better conditions.

Shortly after moving to Barry county, Hiram Wood selected a farm in Woodland township and there he took his bride, whom he married not long after coming to this state. Elida Young was born on August 26, 1826, New York state, a daughter of Betsy Young, of Pennsylvania stock, who



WILLIAM A. WOOD.

moved to Barry county in early days and settled in Carlton township. Hiram Wood labored industriously in order to get his farm in shape and carried on general farming until the time of his death on July 9, 1865. His widow survived him a number of years, passing away on April 9, 1898. He was one of the most active Democrats of this section in his day and was also a charter member of Hastings Lodge No. 52, Free and Accepted Masons. While not a member of any church, Hiram Wood leaned toward Universalism, was something of a free thinker, liberal and righteous. He was a public-spirited man, of progressive tendencies and did much to advance the general interests of the county in which he had chosen to make his home.

William A. Wood is one of a family of five children, being next to the youngest; Jerial is deceased, as is also Charles E., the third child; Ellis is in the West, and Ida (Mrs. Andruss) lives at Hastings, this state.

William A. Wood received such education as the meager opportunities of the district schools of this section at that time afforded, which was very largely supplemented by instruction from his mother, who was well educated and had taught school here a short time before her marriage. Mr. Wood's father died when he was a lad about twelve years old and his earlier years were given over to the life of a farmer. About 1869 he first came to Montcalm county, working in the woods and lumber camps and about ten years later he started in the drug business at Six Lakes and was actively engaged in this business until 1913 when he turned the management over to his nephew, Glenn Wood. During the years the business had grown until it included drugs, implements, paints, hardware and sundries and was in a healthy and flourishing condition. Mr. Wood has also had extensive farming interests and still owns several hundred acres in the township and county. He has practically retired from the active duties of life, but gives some attention to the real-estate business, being unusually well versed in values throughout this locality. In the timber days in this section he was a large dealer in lumber and shingles and stocked many mills. He also sold many hundreds of acres of timber for others as well as himself and in this way came into possession of so much farming land.

William A. Wood has been twice married. His first wife was Ella Osborn, daughter of Hiram and Jemima Osborn, born in Hudson, Hillsdale county, this state, in 1857. They were married in 1877 and she died on July 24, 1894, at the age of thirty-seven years. There were no children to the union. Mr. Wood was married, secondly, October 23, 1895, to Mrs. Eugene (Hardy) Bellows, daughter of James and Jane (Herron) Hardy.

the former a native of Scotland and the latter born in Ireland. Mr. Wood's second wife was also born in Hudson, Hillsdale county, this state, and died on May 20, 1915, there being no children.

In politics Mr. Wood is an active Democrat and has filled the various township offices—treasurer, clerk, supervisor and justice of the peace for a short time. He is president of the Peoples Bank at Edmore, this state, and his business judgment is sought by many younger men wishing to embark in new enterprises. He holds fraternal affiliation with the Free and Accepted Masons, being one of the charter members of the Six Lakes lodge. Mr. Wood has always been a popular and respected man. He is public spirited and progressive and takes a keen interest in whatever is planned for the public good. He has a fine, modern home and many business interests and is well worthy of the respect in which he is held throughout this section.

CHAS. J. COLE

WILLIAM H. SEXTON, JR.

William H. Sexton, Jr., a farmer living in Belvidere township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in this county, in Bushnell township, February 14, 1868, a son of William H., Sr. and Suzanna (Frost) Sexton. William, Sr. was a native of Kent, England, born on November 27, 1840, and died at his home in Belvidere township on December 20, 1912. He left his home in England at the age of fifteen years and lived for a short time in the eastern part of the county. He then came to Michigan and settled in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, and when the immediate subject of this sketch was ten years of age, the family moved to Belvidere township, where William, Sr. passed the balance of his life. He married while living in the state of New York, Suzanna Frost, who is a native of Albion, that state, born on November 30, 1847, and she still lives on the old home place in Belvidere township, just south of where her son, William, lives. When William, Sr. and his wife first came to Montcalm county, the farm they chose was a wilderness, covered heavily with timber and undergrowth and while a clearing was being made and a cabin erected they lived out of doors, sleeping under the wagon bed. About ten years later they came to Belvidere township, and William, Jr. can remember clearing up the eighty-acre tract where they chose their home and putting it in shape for cultivation. He is the eldest of a family of six children, the others being: Elizabeth (Mrs. Cole); Thomas, of Belvidere township; Nora, deceased; Sadie (Mrs. Cole),

living in Indiana, and Norman, on the old home place with the mother. William Sexton, Sr. was a man of sterling character, hospitable and liberal in every way and well liked by all who knew him. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, carefully living the teachings of the order and was also affiliated with the Daughters of Rebekah. He was one of the most active Republicans of his section and took an active part in the development of his community. He was a school director for many years and also a member of the highway commission.

William H. Sexton, Jr. grew up in Belvidere township and received such schooling as the somewhat limited facilities of the time offered and was reared by his father as a farmer. He remained on the home place until twenty-two years of age, worked out some among neighboring farmers and then started out in life for himself on a forty-acre tract in Ferris township, this county. There he remained for five years when he sold out and came to the eighty-acre farm in Belvidere township which has since been his home. When he purchased it, it was but partially cleared and Mr. Sexton erected the buildings, put up fences, etc., and has cleared the land until he has a fine farm. It is ideally located on a main road and the whole air of the place suggests good management and prosperity. Mr. Sexton is a general farmer, raising also some live stock of good grade.

On April 11, 1894, William H. Sexton, Jr., was married at Palo, Ionia county, this state, to Fanny Fancett, born in that county on April 23, 1870, a daughter of William and Emily (Wenmen) Fancett. The father was a native of England, and upon coming to this county settled for a time in Bushnell township, later going to Ionia county, where he died on February 1, 1907. He was a life-long farmer. His wife was born in England. There were seven children in the Fancett family, Mrs. Sexton being the eldest. The others are George, Lillian, May (deceased), Charles, Lloyd and Donald. Mr. and Mrs. Sexton have one child, a daughter, Mildred, a bright and promising girl. She is a graduate of the Edmore high school and also of the State Normal College, at Mount Pleasant, finishing there in 1915. At that institution she won a life certificate for the primary and sixth and seventh grades.

Mr. Sexton is a Republican, much interested in local affairs but has never aspired to office. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons through the local lodge at Six Lakes and is also a member of the Order of Gleans. Mr. Sexton is a progressive man in every sense of the word, public spirited and held in high esteem by all who know him.

WILLIAM E. HOWELL.

William E. Howell, one of the best known and most highly respected of the successful farmers living in Douglass township, Montcalm county, was born in Brant county, Ontario, Canada, on March 18, 1866, a son of William S. and Mary (Gee) Howell, natives of Canada, the former born in 1836.

William S. Howell, who was a son of Enoch Howell and wife, was educated and grew to maturity in Brant county, working as a farmer in his native community until 1882, when he came to Montcalm county and engaged in "pine slashing" on a four hundred and forty acres tract of land in Douglass township. Later, the elder Howell, together with a brother, Reuben, built a saw-mill, which they operated for six years and then selling their mill to William M. Thomas & Sons, of Stanton, in 1888, the Howell brothers moved to the state of Arkansas, and there secured about three hundred acres of land on which they operated a mill and dealt in lumber for about three years. About this time, Reuben Howell having been killed in their saw-mill, William S. Howell disposed of his interests in Arkansas and returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, where he lived as a general farmer until 1909, and then went to Rochester, New York, living a retired life at that place. William S. and Mary Howell, the latter of whom lives with her youngest son in Arizona, are the parents of five children: One child who died in infancy; William E., Isrice, who died at Alpena, Michigan; Samson, who is deceased, and Peter, of Arizona. The elder Howell is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Stanton.

William E. Howell received his education in the schools of Brant county, Ontario, after which he work as a farmer throughout his locality for some time, later in 1881, coming with friends to Montcalm county, Michigan, **where he since has been engaged in general agricultural pursuits.** Mr. Howell now owns a desirable farm of eighty acres, has his place well improved with a **beautiful cobble-stone residence** and other buildings and is modernly equipped for his farm activities in which he has proved to be a recognized success.

During the month of June, 1888, William E. Howell was married to Hattie Hancock, who was born in Montcalm county, a daughter of Albert Hancock and wife, who are deceased. To the marriage of William E. and Hattie Howell was born one child, Mabel, who died in infancy. In 1890, Hattie, the wife of William E. Howell, died and during the month of January, 1892, Mr. Howell was married, secondly, to Cora Beers, who was

born near South Haven, Michigan, a daughter of Abel and Julia (Cummings) Beers. William E. and Cora Howell are the parents of one child, Leon Glenn, born in October 24, 1893.

William E. Howell has taken his place as a citizen by serving on the board of review and is an interested worker and supporter of the Republican party in Montcalm county. Fraternally, Mr. Howell is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, at Entrican, and also is a member of the local organization of the Grange, at Entrican.

HARLAN P. NEVINS.

Harlan P. Nevins was born on July 29, 1847, in Litchfield, Medina county, Ohio, and is the son of Andrew B. and Clarissa (Snow) Nevins. Andrew B. Nevins was born on January 31, 1820, in Farmington, Connecticut, and was "bound out" when but a child of twelve years. Soon after this he decided to learn a trade and chose cabinet-making, spending five years in the mastery of that trade. The next eleven years were spent at Cleveland, Ohio, subsequently engaging in carpenter work for the sixteen years following. He then removed to Wauscon, Fulton county, Ohio, where he engaged in the saw-mill business for three years, followed by ten years in the same line in Sydney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and four years in Day township, of the same county. He then sold his milling interests and engaged in general farming, in Allegan county, Michigan, adjoining the village property of Moline, residing on this eighty-acre farm until his death on August 26, 1896. Politically, he was an active Democrat and was supervisor of Day township for one term, and justice of the peace for several years. After assisting with the building of the Congregational church, in Litchfield, Ohio, he became one of its deacons and choir leader for many years. His wife was also a member of this denomination. Clarissa (Snow) Nevins was a native of Williamstown, Connecticut, and was born on September 30, 1825. She died on April 12, 1902. They were the parents of six children: Harlan P., Andrew M., now living on a farm in Moline, Michigan; Ella, now Mrs. Noah, of Oakfield, Michigan; Melvin, employed in a furniture factory, in Muskegon, Michigan; Edwin, druggist and jeweler of Moline, Michigan; and Frank, who operates the home farm near Moline, Michigan, was postmaster of Moline for seventeen years.

Harlan P. Nevins was reared on the home place and educated in the

schools of Litchfield, Ohio, after seventeen years of age being engaged in his father's mill. He learned the carpenter's trade and removed to Moline, Michigan, at the same time that his parents removed to that place. In connection with his brother, a general merchandise store was operated in the town of Moline, for seven years. He also assisted in the erection of the elevator and several other buildings of the town. In 1902 he removed to Six Lakes, Michigan, where he followed his trade during the summer. Previous to his establishing a residence in Six Lakes, Michigan, he sold his eighty-acre farm in Belvidere township, of this county, and in 1889 removed to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was employed as saw filer for the School Furniture Company for seven and one-half years. He now owns and operates a forty-acre farm adjoining the town of Six Lakes, Michigan, which place is well improved and managed. Politically, he is a staunch Republican and cast his first vote for Grant in 1868. He is also a member of the township board and has served three terms as justice of the peace. Fraternally, he is a member of Enterprise Lodge No. 406, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He belongs to the Congregational church in Six Lakes, Michigan, in which church he was formerly a deacon. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church, of Six Lakes.

On December 21, 1870, Harlan P. Nevins was united to Libby Holland, daughter of George Holland, who died a short time after her marriage. She was a native of Evergreen township, of this county. Her death occurred on March 26, 1873. On July 28, 1874, Harlan P. Nevins was married to Mrs. Rosalia (Palmer) Tupper, daughter of Loren and Lydia (Manly) Palmer, and six children were born of this union, three of whom died in infancy: Edith is the wife of Oscar Fleck, of Belvidere township, and they have four children, Harlan, Lucas, May Ellis and Asa; Lara is the wife of Edward Brown, also of Belvidere township, and they have four children, George, Maxine, Lila and Atlee; Lydia is the wife of Elvin Cornell of Belvidere township, and they also have four children, Elsie, Melvin, Raymond and Rose. The mother of these children is a native of New state, born in Albany.

Loren Palmer, father of Mrs. Nevins, was born in New York state. He came to Montcalm county in October, 1866. He was a farmer in Montcalm township and lived the rest of his life in this county. He died at the age of seventy years. His wife died at the age of eighty-three years. She was a member of the Congregational church. He was a Republican.

WILLIAM M. STEERE.

William M. Steere, a pioneer teacher of this region and a prosperous retired farmer, a veteran of the Civil War, now living retired at his pleasant home in Crystal, this county, is a native-born son of Michigan, having been born in Lenawee county, this state, on September 21, 1847, son of William M. and Elizabeth C. (Beal) Steere, pioneers of Bloomer township, who came from Ohio during the early days.

When the junior William M. Steere was in his sixth year his parents moved to Montcalm county and settled in the midst of a timber tract one mile south of the center of Bloomer township. The country thereabout at that time was just beginning to be settled and there was an unbroken stretch of forest for three miles west, through which a bare trail had but shortly been cut. After living there a couple of years the Steere family moved over into Ionia county and settled in Ronald township, where the elder Steere rented a farm for two or three years, at the end of which time he bought a quarter of a section of unbroken land one and one-half miles west of the town of Palo, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives and where the junior William M. Steere grew up, a sturdy, self-reliant lad.

On August 23, 1864, a month before his seventeenth birthday, William M. Steere, Jr., enlisted as a recruit in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the West, under Sherman, and he was with that famous command during the march to the sea, thence through the arduous campaign up through the Carolinas and on to Washington, where he participated in the Grand Review and was mustered out in June, 1865. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Steere returned home and resumed his place in the labors of the farm. About 1871 he was requested to go over into Osceola county and take charge of a school. While not especially prepared for teaching, he had received a good common-school education, which he had supplemented by studious home reading and he accepted the call, entering upon the duties of teaching a pioneer school, the only one in two townships, the pupils of which came from a distance of five miles around. He taught that winter in Osceola county and the next winter entered upon his career as a teacher in this county and for seven years was thus engaged in the schools of Crystal township, during three of those years having been a teacher in the village of Crystal. About the time he began teaching Mr. Steere had bought a small farm in Ionia county and upon his marriage, in the spring of 1874,

he and his wife began housekeeping there, but in October of that year sold the place and moved to Crystal township, this county, where, with the exception of several varying periods, they have since made their home, long having been regarded as among the most substantial residents of that part of the county.

Upon locating there Mr. Steere bought a quarter section of timber land, slightly improved, south of Crystal Lake, and there made his home for fourteen years, after which time he was engaged for two or three years in the milling business at Crystal. He then moved to Ionia county and thence to Washtenaw county, where for four years he made his home south of the city of Ann Arbor, after which he bought an eighty-acre tract of timber in Evergreen township, this county, which, with the assistance of his sons he cleared and "stumped," and in June, 1910, bought property in Crystal village, where he ever since has made his home. About the same time he bought a farm southeast of the village, but recently sold it. The Steeres have a handsome "cobble-stone" house in Crystal and are very pleasantly situated there. Mr. Steere has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs and for some years served as justice of the peace and has also held other minor public offices. He was a Republican until the divergence in the ranks of that party in 1912, at which time he allied himself with the Progressive party, but now regards himself as wholly independent of party domination, casting his vote, as a patriotic duty, for such candidates for office as he thinks best fitted to the trust. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and for years has taken an active interest in the affairs of the local post of that patriotic organization.

On May 6, 1874, William M. Steere was united in marriage to Emma U. Tone, who was born in Genesee county, New York, daughter of John and Electa (Hubbard) Tone, the former of whom had entered land at one dollar and twenty-five cents in that county and established a home in which he spent the remainder of his life. The family kept possession of the home place until they sold it for one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Emma U. Tone grew to womanhood on that farm and became a school teacher. She came to this county to make her home with a sister in Bushnell township and was teaching school south of the village of Sheridan when she and Mr. Steere met. To their union eight children have been born, four sons and four daughters, as follow: Edith May, who is at home with her parents; Joseph Beal, a farmer of Evergreen township, who married Lillian Scott and has two sons, William Robert and Joseph Beal; Ellen

L., who married Peter F. Johnson, of Detroit, and has one son, Richard; Leonard, an Evergreen township farmer, who married Ethel Heisler and has three children, Wilma, Marguerite and Charles W.; Dr. Thomas H., a veterinary surgeon, of Belding, this state, who married and has two children, Mariquita and David D.; Electa E., at home; Wilfred J., a farmer, unmarried, and Ethel, a stenographer in a wholesale grocery store at Detroit. All four of the Steere sisters have been teachers. Miss Electa for years was a teacher in the high school at Crystal and has been quite successful as an educator. Mr. and Mrs. Steere are members of the Methodist church and their children have been reared in that faith.

THOMAS EDMOND JACKSON.

Among the successful farmers and prominent citizens of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Thomas Edmond Jackson, who was born in Halton county, Ontario, Canada, on May 19, 1861, a son of John and Maria Jackson, natives of Ireland.

John Jackson spent his early days in County Cork, Ireland, when a young man coming to America and locating in Halton county, Ontario, where he became a farmer on one hundred acres of land which he purchased and cleared preparatory to cultivation. After reaching the point of prosperity as a farmer, the elder Jackson returned to his native country, where he was married, returning to his Canadian home, where he and his wife lived the rest of their lives. John and Maria Jackson were the parents of eight children: Joseph H., who died at Saginaw, Michigan, in 1914; William John, who died in Oregon; David Oliver; Thomas Edmond; Elizabeth, wife of Martin Morrison, of Manitoba, Canada; Lucinda, Ann Jane and Robert James, who are deceased, the latter having been a twin brother of Thomas Edmond, the subject of this sketch. John and Maria Jackson were members of the Church of England.

Thomas Edmond Jackson grew to maturity in Canada, living there until seventeen years of age, when he came to Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and joined a brother, William John, who had located in this community and who was a successful farmer. For a time Thomas E. Jackson, after coming to this county, worked as a farm helper in the summer and during the winter was employed in the lumber woods, near Stanton. Later, Mr. Jackson secured forty acres of land in Douglass town-

ship, which he cleared and then cultivated for some time, after which he sold this farm to Gordon Rice and in 1907 bought eighty acres where he now lives. This land Mr. Jackson improved and now has one of the desirable farms of the community, where he is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

Brower, a native of Hillsdale county, Michigan, and to this marriage have

On October 14, 1887, Thomas Edmond Jackson was married to Laura been born five children: George W., who is an employee of the Oldsmobile automobile works, at Lansing, Michigan; John E., an employee of the Reo Automobile Company, at Lansing, Michigan, who married Pauline Grose, they being the parents of one child, Donald; Ernest L., of Lansing, Michigan, who married Avon Earl; Roy at Lansing, Michigan, and Frederick, who lives at home.

Mrs. Jackson is a daughter of Elkanah and Isabella (Chappel) Brower, the former born in New York state, in 1828, a son of Jeremiaah and Submit Brower; the latter born in Ohio, in 1843, a daughter of John and Harriett Chappel. Elkanah Brower moved, with his parents, to Jackson county, Michigan, in 1842, and lived on the home farm until some years later when he purchased a farm in Cambridge township, Hillsdale county, Michigan. In 1885, Mr. Brower moved to Montcalm county, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, living at this place until later in life when he moved to Westville, Day township, this county, where he spent his last days, dying on June 23, 1915, at the age of eighty-six years.

On June 21, 1865, Elkanah Brower was married to Isabella Chappel, who died on March 22, 1870, survived by her husband and two children, Hattie, wife of James Place, of Jackson county, Michigan, and Laura, wife of the subject of this sketch. During the year 1873, Mr. Brower was married, secondly, to Rachael Fleming, a native of Hillsdale county, Michigan, and to this marriage were born four children: Edwin, of Douglass township, this county; Alice, wife of John Shaw, of Belvidere township, Montcalm county; Rachael, wife of John Mulholland, of Greenville, this county, and Elkanah, who is deceased. Mrs. Rachael Brower died in Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1882.

Elkanah Brower was a prominent man of this county, having served as a member of the school board and as a school director in Douglass township for some time, and was a citizen who was active in the affairs of the Democratic party in this community. Mr. Brower was a member of Stanton Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons and was a member of the Montcalm

county Grange. Elkanah Brower was not a member of any church, although he was a man of religious conviction and a recognized Bible student.

Thomas Edmond Jackson is a charter member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, at McBride, Montcalm county, and formerly was active in the affairs of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at McBride. In politics, Mr. Jackson is a Republican, although he does not aspire to public office.

ROBERT JOHN HILLIS.

Robert John Hillis, a well-known farmer and office-holder of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, Canada, on October 11, 1877, a son of Hugh C. and Margaret (Boyd) Hillis, a sketch of whose lives will be found under the name of George Thomas Hillis, presented elsewhere in this volume.

At the age of eleven years, Robert John Hillis, having completed his education in the schools of Ontario, Canada, came to Montcalm county, Michigan, with his parents, and lived on the home farm until after his marriage, when he moved, about 1905, to a farm of eighty acres in Douglass township, which land Mr. Hillis secured from his father, a part of the original Hillis farm in this township. On this land Mr. Hillis placed necessary improvements and has since made his home on this place, as a general farmer.

On December 25, 1904, Robert John Hillis was married to Hattie Belle Parker, who was born in Pine township, Montcalm county, and to this marriage have been born three children: Thelma Belle, born on July 25, 1909; Jaunita May, October 16, 1911, and Anna Margaret, February 13, 1915.

Mrs. Hillis is a daughter of John L. and Annie (Taylor) Parker, natives of Somersetshire, England, the former born on March 7, 1844, near Wells; the latter on December 26, 1852, in the parish of Wedmoor. John L. Parker came to America when he was twenty-four years of age and settled in Onondago county, New York, where he was married to Annie Taylor, who came to America when she was two years of age and located with her parents in Onondago county, New York. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Parker lived in New York state for some time and then, in 1880, moved to Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where John L. Parker cultivated his farm of eighty acres for the remainder of his days, dying on June 24, 1908, survived by four children and his widow, who now lives in Entrican.

John L. Parker was a member of the Methodist church and in politics was a Democrat. Mrs. Parker is a devout member of the Episcopal church.

Robert John Hillis has taken his place in the official life of Douglass township as a constable for two terms, and for many years has been an active worker and supporter of the Republican party in Douglass township and Montcalm county.

GEORGE W. HOLCOMB.

George W. Holcomb, manager of the plant of the Crystal Cheese Company, of Crystal, this county, and regarded as one of the leading business men in that part of the county, is a native son of Montcalm county, having been born in Crystal township, February 22, 1876, son of Daniel West and wife, the former of whom was a veteran of the Civil War and the latter of whom died when their son, George, was four years old, whereupon the little lad was adopted by Albert J. and Ella A. (Root) Holcomb, prominent farming people of that section, now living retired at Butternut, this county, and has ever since borne their name.

George W. Holcomb was reared on the Holcomb farm in Crystal township, receiving his elementary education in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and supplemented the same by a course in the high school at Carson City, from which he was graduated with the class of 1894. He then went to Montana, where he homesteaded a tract of land, on which he remained for three years, the period necessary to "prove up" the same, and then went to California, where he spent about a year engaged as a book-keeper in a raisin vineyard. He then returned to Michigan and for seven years was engaged in the yards of the Barryton Lumber Company, at Barryton, as lumber inspector. He then went to Muskegon and was engaged as superintendent of construction of the Muskegon Water Power and Electric Company for two years, at the end of which time, in 1906, he married and returned to his father's farm in Crystal township, where he remained for a year, operating the same.

In 1908 George W. Holcomb transferred his services to the Fitzpatrick cheese factory at Butternut, this county, and was there engaged for three years, during which time he became thoroughly acquainted with the process of manufacturing cheese. He then was sent to Crystal, where he helped Mr. Fitzpatrick install a cheese factory and for two years operated the new factory in the interests of the owner, at the end of which time Mr.

Fitzpatrick withdrew from the business and it passed to the control of the Crystal Cheese Company, a corporation of local men, and since that time Mr. Holcomb has been managing the factory, which has proved a very profitable concern, its product being in wide demand.

In 1906 George W. Holcomb was united in marriage to Lulu M. Henry, who was born at Lake Odessa, this state, daughter of Joshua and Susan M. (Van Houtten) Henry. Joshua Henry was a native of Virginia, who withdrew from that state upon the declaration of secession and went to Ohio, where he enlisted for service in the Union cause in a battery of light artillery, during which service a cannon fell on him, causing injuries which years later indirectly caused his death. Upon the close of his military service Mr. Henry came to Michigan and settled in Ionia county, where he engaged in farming, and there he married Susan Van Houtten, who was born near the town of Ionia. Mr. Henry died in 1888 and some time later his widow married Martin Beaver and now lives at Woodbury, in Eaton county, this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb one child has been born, a daughter, Pauline M., born in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb are members of the Congregational church and the former is a Mason.

ALBERT J. HOLCOMB.

Albert J. Holcomb, a well-known retired farmer of Bloomer township, this county, now living in the pleasant village of Butternut, where he and his wife have a very comfortable home, and where they are enjoying the ample rewards of the years of stern toil which they had to face in pioneer days, is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a pioneer farm in the neighboring county of Ionia, this state, on August 17, 1848, son of Jesse and Samantha (Kendall) Holcomb, both natives of New York state, but pioneer residents of Ionia county, where their last days were spent. Jesse Holcomb was reared as a tailor, but upon coming to this state became a farmer and so continued the rest of his life.

Growing up on a pioneer farm, Albert J. Holcomb's youth was not marked by much leisure, nor did he have many advantages in the way of schooling and he was not able to enter the high school at Ionia until he was nineteen years old, after which he spent three or four terms there, acquiring there an excellent foundation for the broader course of self-study which marked his after years and made him a well-read and well-informed man

His father died on May 9, 1869, and when the paternal estate was settled, Albert J. received five hundred and forty-two dollars as his share of the same. He bargained for a farm in Crystal township, this county, and made his payments on it by working in the lumber camps, and at the same time doing what he could to clear his land. In the fall of that year, November 22, 1869, he married Ella Root, who was born in Jackson county, this state, on March 25, 1852, daughter of James N. and Clarissa (Slack) Root, and who was educated in the schools of Ionia, and he and his bride began housekeeping in a little log house which they found already erected on the place he had bought and there they made their home for fourteen years. Mrs. Holcomb had the true spirit of the pioneer and ever was a valuable and competent helpmate for her husband. The first year after their marriage she taught school while her husband was working in the lumber camp and in many ways aided and encouraged him in the arduous task of clearing the land. It was hard work, of course, and Mrs. Holcomb's parents made every effort to dissuade them from their pioneering task, but they were not easily discouraged and by their united efforts not only eventually attained success financially, but set a worthy example. In time the land was cleared, an orchard was planted, more commodious buildings were erected and the once forest wilderness tract became a well-cultivated and well-kept farm, Mr. Holcomb adding to the same, as he prospered, until when he sold out and moved to Butternut in the spring of 1914 he was the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of choice land. During the days of his active farming Mr. Holcomb had devoted considerable attention to the raising of sheep and cattle and always kept good horses. Mrs. Holcomb, as well as her husband, always having been a lover of good horses.

During their residence on the Crystal township farm, Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb were attentive to the public welfare as well as to their own interests and ever were regarded as among the leaders in the social, civic and religious life of the community, always taking part in whatever movements promised well for the general interest, particularly in the educational and cultural way. Mr. Holcomb for two terms served in the capacity of justice of the peace and for ten years was assessor of the school district, also holding minor public positions at other times. He is an ardent Prohibitionist and for years has been one of the most active workers in the anti-saloon movement in that part of the county, his personal endeavors undoubtedly having done much toward carrying the local-option measure in that township. Both Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb are earnest members of the Methodist

church at Vickeryville and during the time of their residence in that neighborhood the former was superintendent of the Sunday school, while the latter was secretary of the board of stewards. Mrs. Holcomb was president of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society at Vickeryville and since moving to Butternut has been elected to a like position with the society of the same name there, while both she and her husband continue to take an active part in church and all other works.

Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb have no children of their own, but they have an adopted son, George W. Holcomb, who was born at Mud Lake, near Fishville, son of Daniel West and wife, the former of whom was a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. West died when her son was four years of age and Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb adopted the motherless child and reared him with all the love and devotion they could have bestowed upon a child of their own. George W. Holcomb, who is now manager of the extensive cheese factory at Crystal, this county, and concerning whom further mention is made in a biographical sketch relating to himself, presented elsewhere in this volume, married Lulu Henry and has a daughter, Pauline. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb also reared Mrs. Holcomb's nephew, Frank Root, son of Adelbert G. and Mary (Caswell) Root, the latter of whom died when her son, Frank, was eight years of age, whereupon Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb took the motherless lad into their home and reared him until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he went to Ionia, where he has since lived and where he is engaged as a cement worker. Frank Root married Minnie Harder, of near Hubbardstown.

WILLIAM H. PETERMAN.

William H. Peterman is the owner and operator of two hundred and forty acres of land, located one mile west of the town of Sheridan, in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, ten to thirty acres of which is devoted to the raising of potatoes each year. This home has been paid for from the proceeds of his potato crops. He is also engaged in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle and Ohio Improved Chester hogs, all of which are registered stock. He was born on September 1, 1856, in Jackson, Trumbull county, Ohio, and is the son of Andrew and Delilah (Ford) Peterman, both natives of Pennsylvania. They arrived in Montcalm county, Michigan, on August 1, 1876, and located in section 28, of Sidney

township, where their deaths occurred. They are both buried near Sidney Center.

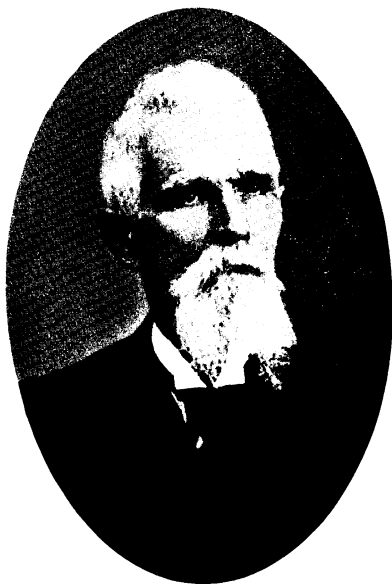
William H. Peterman was educated in the public schools of his native state, and then engaged in the operation of a shingle-mill for ten years. He operated the first shingle-mill for Dan Gardner in Sidney township. On September 10, 1879, William H. Peterman was united in marriage to Emma Hall and they are the parents of ten children: Ernest, Wilber, Chester, Ray, Arthur, William, Retta, Fannie, Dora and Nora. The mother of these children was born in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan.

In 1882 Mr. Peterman purchased forty acres of land and engaged in farming, adding to and improving the place until he sold it in 1900. He then purchased eighty acres which has been added to until he now has a large, productive farm. He and his wife are both members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and in his political affiliations he is a Democrat. They are old residents of this section and are much respected by those who know them.

JOSHUA H. NOAH.

Joshua H. Noah is one of the many brave and loyal men who, through the crisis of the Civil War, fought for the preservation of the Union. He is a native of Portage county, Ohio, and his birth occurred on March 11, 1837. He is the son of J. V. Noah and his wife, Ruth (Fox) Daniels, a widow, and his education was received in the district schools of his native county, having remained there until seventeen years of age. In October, 1855, he and his father came to the state of Michigan where they purchased a farm in Sidney township, this county, all heavy timber, and began building a log cabin, preparatory to the coming of the family nearly one year later. J. V. Noah was active in the church and political life of the community until his death, which occurred on his farm in Michigan. He was a Whig and later a Republican. He and his wife were members of the Congregational church.

On August 2, 1861, Joshua H. Noah enlisted in Company H, Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served with the Army of the Potomac until September 27, 1864, at which time he received his honorable discharge and returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1860 he was married to Emeline Amsbury, of Fairplain township, and to them were born five children: Clarence, who



JOSHUA H. NOAH.

was born in 1861 and is now serving as township clerk of Sidney township and farming in Montcalm county; Earny, a barber, of Battle Creek, Michigan; Minnie, wife of William Drews, of Sidney township; Ralph, living on his father's farm, was married on December 10, 1913, to Anna Jensen, who was born in Sidney township, and they have one son, Howard, and Celia, who is living in Detroit, Michigan, employed by the Saxon Motor Company. Joshua H. Noah has been chairman of the local relief commission of the Grand Army of the Republic for the past twenty-five years. The death of his wife occurred on August 6, 1913, and she was buried at Sidney cemetery.

Mr. Noah has always been a Republican, and voted for Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. He never aspired for office. He moved on his present farm in the early seventies and made all of the improvements on the place. He has cleared between forty-five and fifty acres, and has sixty acres in the home place. He carries on general farming. He cut timber a good deal of the early days. During the war he was one of forty-five men who enlisted in the army and now there are only three left—William Noah, Joshua H. Noah and Orange P. Noah. At one time there were forty-five saw and shingle mills in Sidney township and there are none at the present.

The following reminiscence of his sixty years' residence in Montcalm county was written by Joshua H. Noah in February, 1916:

"More than sixty years have passed since I came to Montcalm county, then an unbroken wilderness, and settled in Sidney, one-half mile west of the center of township, then unorganized. But few people know the trying times we had in trying to start a little improvement to help us eke out a living, as all of our supplies had to come from Greenville, as that was the only place in the county where we could get anything in the line of eatables or clothing. At that time Greenville was but a small berg with but one house on the north side of the river, that belonged to the grist-mill for the miller's use. Not a tree cut; all the angling roads from northwest and northeast headed for the dam where they crossed the river. Now what a change. In 1855, in December, I took my rifle and found the government survey and followed the line east and found the center or section corner, the center of Sidney. At that time not a brush was cut nearer than where I now live, one-half mile west of the center. On May 15, 1856, my father's family and a few others landed at Sidney with two covered wagons, the end of a long journey from Ohio, with a party of thirteen people, and seven of that party are still living.

(29b)

"Oh, what an undertaking that was to try to make a home in the deep wilderness. There was little money in circulation at that time. Shaved shingles, lumber, deer pelts, furs and bear skins and even making grubs to bind lumber rafts on the river was about all the legal tender we had. I well remember the first wedding we had in this town. There was a couple that wanted to get married and they sent to Fairplain and had a justice of the peace come and do the job. After the ceremony was performed, the groom said if his pumpkins did well he would pay him in the fall. I think he got his pay. Later this groom and justice of the peace enlisted for the Civil War and both were in the same company that I was and both got killed. We all left Greenville for the war on the 16th day of August, 1861. About the war I will say nothing, only this—we had a lot of soft fun and a pile of hard fun.

"Speaking of the war reminds me of what did happen. As I said before, there was but little money in circulation, consequently most of the young men that had just started in the wilderness had some store bills. I owed six dollars all told, and as we were about ready to start for war Mr. _____ came to me and said I owed him one dollar and that he wanted it. I had a little money but I wanted to take a little with me, but that did not satisfy him, so I had to give my note for one dollar, given on the 16th day of August, 1861. I do not remember when it became due and it may not have become due yet, as it has never been presented for payment. I wish they would present it, as I would like to pay the principal but not any interest. Well, that put me to thinking that I was committing some awful crime. I owed M. Rutan and J. M. Fuller each \$.50, so I went and saw them as I did not want to go to war for their benefit with a rope hanging around my neck, but I found them built of better material. They both said, 'Yes, if you ever come back you can pay us then if you want to.' These two men were paid the first week after my return.

"Our town was organized in 1858 and the first township meeting was held that spring. There is only one of the first township officers alive today. My father was our first postmaster and he held the office for a number of years with only four dollars a year salary, but later on he got twelve dollars a year. But what a change I have seen from a solid wilderness to beautiful farms and farm buildings. One of my eyes has kept a close touch on Greenville and the other on Sidney for sixty years. There is one thing I want to say, I would not give my experience of pioneer life and my experience of three years in the army for the best farm in Montcalm county."

GEORGE THOMAS HILLIS.

One of the leading farmers and stock raisers and a man who is well known among the citizenship of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is George Thomas Hillis, who was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, Canada, on July 18, 1872, a son of Hugh C. and Margaret (Boyd) Hillis, natives of Canada, the former born in Kingston, on December 18, 1844, a son of Joseph and Jane Hillis, natives of Ireland; the latter a daughter of Robert and Ann Jane (True) Boyd, natives of Ireland.

Hugh C. Hillis grew to maturity in Canada, where he was a farmer until the eighties, when he moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, and settled in Douglass township, on a farm of forty acres. Later, the elder Hillis sold his original farm and bought three hundred and twenty acres of land where he now lives, two hundred and fifteen acres of which land Hugh C. Hillis has cleared and improved with good buildings, he living as a general farmer on forty acres, the remainder of his acreage having been apportioned to his sons. After the death of his wife, Margaret, Hugh C. Hillis, in 1907, was married to Mrs. Ann Marion, there being no children by this marriage.

Hugh C. Hillis is a member of the Presbyterian church, as was his first wife. Ann, the present wife of Mr. Hillis, is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church. Hugh C. Hillis, for about four years, was road supervisor for Douglass township, and for many years has been an active and loyal Republican. Hugh C. and Margaret Hillis were the parents of four sons: Joseph Charles; George Thomas and Robert John, of Douglass township, and Hugh Crozier, who is deceased.

George Thomas Hillis received his education in the public schools of Ontario, Canada, after which he lived at home until at fifteen years of age with his parents, he came to Westville, Montcalm county, Michigan, and worked on the home farm for some years. About 1901, following his marriage, Mr. Hillis moved to his farm of eighty acres and cleared his land, removed the stumps and built the necessary buildings, he now living on this farm and engaging in general farming, together with the raising of considerable quantities of good grade live stock.

On December 18, 1901, George Thomas Hillis was married to Bertha L. Stockford, who was born on November 28, 1879, at Clarksville, Ionia county, Michigan, and to this marriage have been born two children: Zoreta G., born on May 5, 1903, and Kenneth Boyd, August 28, 1907. Mr. Hillis

and his family are active members of the Methodist church, at Hemmingway Chapel.

Mrs. Hillis is a daughter of John and Roxy (White) Stockford, the former born in Canada on June 10, 1845, a son of Joseph and Mary Stockford, of Canada; the latter born in Ionia county, Michigan, on August 12, 1860, a daughter of Anasa and Pruella (Lyon) White, natives of New York state and of Ohio, respectively.

John Stockford moved to Ionia county, Michigan, alone, in September, 1864, and worked on various farms of the community and in number camps of Campbell township, for several years. Later, Mr. Stockford married and then came to Douglass township, Montcalm county, where he rented a farm for several years, after which he moved to a farm of forty-seven acres, which he had secured some years previously, and on this place he is now living as a general farmer. John Stockford and his wife, Roxy, are members of Hemmingway Chapel Methodist church. In politics, Mr. Stockford is a Republican.

George Thomas Hillis has taken an active part in the public and official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, having served as township treasurer for two years and for the past two years has been the occupant of the office of justice of the peace. Politically, Mr. Hillis is a Republican. Fraternally, George Thomas Hillis is a member of Stanton Lodge No. 49, Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Hillis is one of the most progressive and popular farmers of the community, his excellent judgment and his industrious ways having won for him notable success as a farmer and a prosperous place in the agricultural life of Douglass township.

REV. SAMUEL BOLLINGER.

The Rev. Samuel Bollinger, a substantial farmer of Ferris township, this county, and a well-known and influential minister of the Church of the Brethren, commonly called Dunkards, at Vestaburg, who for years has been prominently connected with the civic and religious life of his community, is a native of Ohio, having been born in Portage county, that state, son of Emmanuel and Margaret (Mishler) Bollinger, who came to Michigan with their family in 1883 and settled on a farm a mile and a half north of Vestaburg, in this county. There Emmanuel Bollinger made his home until his retirement from the labors of the farm upon the coming of old

age, since which time he has made his home in the household of his son, the subject of this biographical sketch.

Samuel Bollinger was about eighteen years of age when he came to Montcalm county from Ohio with his parents and he began working for himself upon coming here, since 1884 having made his home in Ferris township, for some years after coming here having worked for various farmers in that section. He married in 1889 and in 1891 bought a forty-acre "slashing" in the eastern part of Ferris township, three or four acres of which had been cleared, and there he established his home and has ever since lived there. Clearing his land, Mr. Bollinger presently got the place under cultivation and as his operations prospered gradually added to the same by purchase of additional tracts until now he is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, nearly one hundred of which is clear of stumps and under cultivation. Mr. Bollinger has made substantial improvements on his place and now has a well-kept and profitable farm, being looked upon as one of the leading agriculturists thereabout. He has a nice cobble-stone house and excellent farm buildings and is, altogether, quite comfortably situated.

The Rev. Samuel Bollinger has been recognized as one of the leaders in good works in his vicinity ever since establishing himself there and since the year 1900 has been pastor of the Church of the Brethren at Vestaburg, his earnest endeavors in that direction being a pure labor of love, as his denomination does not regard it as a seemly or proper thing to pay a minister a stated salary for his services. In 1907 Mr. Bollinger helped to build the church at Vestaburg and also was one of the most substantial promoters of the church at Crystal and is very properly regarded as a useful and valuable member of the community which he so unselfishly serves. He also has been active in civic affairs and has been equally zealous in behalf of the public service. At the age of twenty-five he was elected township treasurer, in which capacity he served very acceptably for two terms. He also has done good service in various other township offices, having been township clerk, member of the board of review, school inspector and for six or seven years school director.

In 1889 Samuel Bollinger was united in marriage to Alice Palmer, who was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Oliver and Hannah (Davis) Palmer, also natives of that same county, and to this union three children were born, Jennie, Daniel and Howard. The mother of these children died on March 1, 1901, and on January 1, 1902, Mr. Bollinger married, secondly, Mrs. Lillie L. (Ross) Webster, who was born

in Windsor, Canada, daughter of J. W. and Elizabeth (Millard) Ross, who came from Canada to this state and established their home in Mecosta county, where their daughter, Lillie, grew to womanhood, and where she married Charles Webster, who for some time lived at Belding, later moving to New Haven township, Gratiot county, where he died in 1901, leaving two children, Max and Ray, the latter of whom, unhappily, lost his life by drowning in 1911. By Mr. Bollinger's second marriage three children have been born, Elmer, Harry and Edith. Mr. and Mrs. Bollinger take a proper part in the general social activities of their community, as well as in the religious life of the same, and are held in high respect throughout the whole countryside.

JOHN P. SPENCER.

John P. Spencer, one of the best-known farmers of Crystal township, this county, is a native of Ohio, but has been a resident of Montcalm county since he was eight years of age. He was born on March 24, 1845, in Sycamore township, Wyandot county, Ohio, son of Samuel and Nancy Jane (Starkey) Spencer, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, who came to Michigan about 1853 and located in this county, preempting the north half of the southeast quarter of section 2, in what is now Crystal township.

When the Spencers located in that section the country thereabout was wild and almost wholly unsettled, much of it never having been trod by the foot of a white man. The beaten trail that then followed the section line in a general way north and south past the east end of the Spencer homestead was called the Pine River road and was the trail used in transporting supplies to and from the farther distant lumber camps and to the early settlements. Samuel Spencer was among the first settlers of that part of the county and attended the first meeting called for the purpose of effecting a separate organization for Crystal township. At that time the nearest mill was at Matherton and the nearest postoffice was at Hubbardston, it being some time thereafter before a postoffice was established at Carson City. James Spencer occupied that homestead farm, clearing the most of the timber therefrom, until, 1883, in which year he and his wife and all their children save John P., the subject of this sketch, emigrated to the northern part of South Dakota, where they homesteaded another tract of land and there Mr. and Mrs. Spencer spent the remainder of their lives,

the bodies of both now lying in the cemetery near the town of Britton, South Dakota.

As stated above, John P. Spencer was eight years of age when he came to Montcalm county with his parents and he grew to manhood on the homestead farm in Crystal township. He received his start by chopping timber and clearing land and for his labor was given a deed to forty acres of land in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 3, in Crystal township, the date of the conveyance being May 16, 1867. On April 17, 1872, Mr. Spencer married Alvira Vincent, who was born in the town of Odessa in the neighboring county of Ionia, and began housekeeping on his forty-acre tract, which he straightway set about clearing and bringing under cultivation. He presently bought an additional forty adjoining his home place on the east and later bought fifty-nine acres bordering on Duck lake, all of which he still owns. During the time he was developing his home acres, Mr. Spencer was likewise devoted to the general welfare and gave his thoughtful attention to public affairs. He served for some time as highway commissioner and also as a school director and was once elected treasurer of Crystal township, but declined the office.

To John P. and Alvira (Vincent) Spencer two sons were born, Charles and George J., the former of whom died in infancy. George J. Spencer, who was born on January 20, 1884, now lives in another house on his father's farm. On April 24, 1907, he was united in marriage to Martha A. Lott, who was born on a farm in the northeast part of Crystal township, this county, daughter of Charles and Martha A. (Greenhoe) Lott, the former a native of Canada and the latter of this county, daughter of Henry and Hannah Greenhoe, pioneer settlers of Bushnell township. Charles Lott was born in Ontario in 1847, son of Robert Lott, a native of Yorkshire, England, and many years ago came to this country, settling in the northeast part of Crystal township, where he has lived ever since. To George J. Spencer and wife two children have been born, Andley George and Forest Robert.

Mrs. Alvira (Vincent) Spencer died on February 24, 1900, and in February, 1902, Mr. Spencer was married, secondly, to Mrs. Martha Ellen (Wort) Champer, widow of Jacob Champer, who died at Palo in January, 1901. Mrs. Spencer was born in Wells county, Indiana, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Dishong) Wort, who had emigrated from Virginia to Ohio and thence to Indiana, in which latter state they remained until 1872, in which year they came to Michigan and settled in Gratiot county, where

they spent the remainder of their lives. Martha Ellen Wort grew to womanhood in Gratiot county and there was married, April 29, 1891, to Jacob Champer, a native of Ohio, who had come to this state and settled in North Shade township, Gratiot county, where he engaged in farming and also operated a threshing machine. He moved to Palo in 1900 and died there in the following January.

Mr. Spencer and his son, George, are both members of the Masonic order, with which the former has been connected since September 3, 1870, and his name is on the roll of honor of the lodge of that order at Crystal. Mr. Spencer is an unusually active man for one of his years and exhibits the vigor of most men fifteen or twenty years younger.

WILLIAM JAMES KIRKER.

William J. Kirker, a substantial farmer of Ferris township, this county, and one of the best-known men in that section, is a native of Ohio, having been born in the northeastern part of that state on June 21, 1863, son of James and Margaret (Beck) Kirker, both natives of Ireland, the former born in Belfast and the latter in County Down, who in their later years became pioneers of Montcalm county, industrious, energetic and highly-respected residents of Ferris township, where their last days were spent.

James Kirker had led a roving and adventurous life before coming to Michigan to pioneer it in the great timber woods hereabout. He grew up at Belfast, the great port of the north of Ireland, and in his youth naturally took to the sea and for eight years was a sailor, becoming familiar with all the chief ports of the world. Thrice had he rounded Cape Horn and had been through many perilous adventures by sea and by land. When the gold craze broke out in California in 1849 he put in his lot with the modern Argonauts and spent eight years in the gold-fields. About 1855 he and his family left Ireland and came to the United States to make their permanent residence. For several years James Kirker worked in the rolling mills in the Youngstown section of Ohio and then, in 1864, decided to make his home in the Michigan woods. He bought an eighty-acre tract in the virgin forest in Ferris township and worked in the lumber woods until he could clear and improve his farm. In this latter task he experienced the common hardships of the pioneer, the conveniences of life being poor, indeed, and the tools for his labors crude things at best, but he persevered and presently

got a part of his place cleared and a house erected thereon, having to raft the lumber for the house down Pine river about five miles, for he had no team at that time, and had to go to Pewamo for such supplies as came by railroad. The place was presently cleared, however, the family firmly established and James Kirker became recognized as one of the substantial residents of that community. He died on February 27, 1890, and his widow survived him but a little more than two years, her death occurring in September, 1892. They were the parents of six children, of whom the second in order of birth died in infancy, the others being as follows: Mary, who was born in Ireland, married Thomas Kiel and died in 1885, leaving one son, Joseph; Flora, who married Charles McCloskey; Eleanor, widow of Frank Fulford; William J., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, and David, who now lives in Grand Rapids, this state.

William J. Kirker was less than one year old when his parents settled in this county in March, 1864, and he grew up on the pioneer farm in the woods of Ferris township, being accustomed from earliest childhood to the privations incident to life at that time. He remained on the home farm, assisting in the development of the same, he and his only brother, David, being of great assistance to their father as they grew older. For eight years during the latter period of his life, the elder Kirker was an invalid and his sons assumed complete charge of the home place. William J. Kirker bought the interests of the other heirs in the home place and has continued to live there, thus having been a continuous resident of that section since he was one year old. His farm is well improved and he is regarded as a very substantial citizen. Mr. Kirker is a Republican and for years has taken an active part in civic affairs. He was elected treasurer of Ferris township in 1902 and following that term of service was elected supervisor and served very acceptably in the latter capacity for three years. Mr. Kirker has distinct recollections of the time when from his farm to McBride there was an unbroken stretch of forest and also recalls the time when the settlers burned good lumber timber to get rid of it. He has seen the country develop from the forest wilderness state to its present well-settled and highly developed condition and in the labors of that transition period has taken his part with true public spirit, ever evincing a good citizen's interest in all movements and measures designed to advance the common cause hereabout.

On November 10, 1892, William J. Kirker was united in marriage to Lillie McGurn, who was born in the village of Sumner, this county, daugh-

ter of Thomas and Anna (Doxey) McGurn, the former a native of New York and the latter of this state. Thomas McGurn's parents came from Ireland and after living for awhile in New York went to Canada, where Thomas grew to manhood and where he learned the blacksmith trade. As a young man he came to this state and settled at St. Louis, where he married Anna Doxey, who was reared at that place, and after a short further residence there, settled at Sumner, Gratiot county, where he opened a blacksmith shop. He later moved to McBride and after about three years of residence in the latter place moved back to Sumner, where he lived until 1903, in which year he moved to Lansing, this state, where he entered the service of the Oldsmobile Company and has since retired from active service, he and his wife making their home in Lansing.

To William J. and Lillie (McGurn) Kirker three children have been born, Loren, Marie and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. Kirker are members of the Free Methodist church and take an earnest part in all good works in their community, being held in high esteem throughout the entire neighborhood.

GEORGE MARK WILSON.

George Mark Wilson, a progressive and substantial farmer of Ferris township, this county, and one of the best-known residents of Montcalm county, is a native son of Michigan, having been born in the neighboring county of Gratiot, December 20, 1869, son of William Joseph and Sophia (Pullen) Wilson, the former a native of Canada and the latter of England, who became early settlers of the Sumner neighborhood in Gratiot county, this state, where they spent their last days, for years prominent and well-known residents of that section.

William Joseph Wilson was born at Simcoe, in Ontario, son of William Wilson and wife, who had come from England and settled there. He grew to manhood there and married Sophia Pullen, who was six years old when she crossed the ocean with her parents, John and Susanna (Sheppard) Pullen, natives of Devonshire, who also settled in the Simcoe neighborhood. In 1860 William J. Wilson and his wife crossed the border and came to this state, locating in the Sumner neighborhood, in Gratiot county, where they established their home and reared their family. The last stage of their trip was made from Pewamo to Sumner by ox-team and they were among the early settlers of that section of Gratiot county. William J. Wilson

bought one hundred acres of land near Sumner, but two acres of which had been cleared, and set himself to the difficult task of making a home in the wilderness. He succeeded admirably and became a substantial farmer, he and his wife long being regarded as among the leaders in the common life of their community. Both spent the rest of their lives on the home farm, Mrs. Wilson dying first, her death occurring in 1886 and his in 1890.

George M. Wilson lived on the home farm in Sumner township, Gratiot county, until he was twenty-two years of age, receiving his education in the neighborhood school. When twenty-two years old he went to Chicago, where he spent four years employed in the grocery business. He then returned to the old home place and on March 30, 1898, was united in marriage to Carrie Bailey, who was born in Ferris township, this county, November 13, 1874, daughter of Samuel Jamison and Esther Ann (Tissue) Bailey, early settlers of that township, Mr. Bailey having been a prominent lumberman in pioneer days hereabout. To Samuel Bailey and wife were born five children, Mary, George, deceased; Alfred, Henry and Carrie. Carrie Bailey grew to womanhood in Ferris township, attending the St. Louis high school and the normal school at Carson City, after which she was licensed to teach school. She also acquired an excellent musical education and for four years was a teacher of music.

For a year after his marriage Mr. Wilson farmed in Sumner township, Gratiot county. He then bought eighty acres of pine stump land in section 11, of Ferris township, this county, probably the last piece of pine timber left to cut in this county, and proceeded to "stump" the same. In the fall of 1903 he bought an additional "forty," where he is now living, and there he made substantial improvements and now has a very comfortable home and a well-kept farm. For some time Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have given considerable attention to their chickens and have derived no small profit from the same. They have a fine flock of Brown Leghorns and in one year from this flock of two hundred netted about four hundred dollars. Lately Mr. Wilson has started a fine herd of pure-bred Holstein cattle and expects profitably to enlarge the dairy feature of his farming. Mr. Wilson is a Republican and ever since locating in this county has given his most thoughtful and intelligent attention to local political affairs. Shortly after becoming a resident he was elected justice of the peace for Ferris township and has been re-elected three successive times, now serving his fourth term in that important office. He also has held local school offices and has served as president of the East Ferris Union Telephone Company.

To George M. and Carrie (Bailey) Wilson four children have been

born, Winnie Esther, William Jamison, Hazel May and Leo Martin. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the organization of the Church of Christ at Ferris Center and their three elder children are in high school at Vestaburg. The family is held in high esteem throughout that entire neighborhood and takes an active part in the social activities of the same. Mr. Wilson is known among his neighbors as a "born entertainer," and is in great demand at public gatherings hercabout, even at points outside the county, his readings and recitations never failing to "make a hit." He is a member of the Gleaners, having been chief gleaner in the "arbor" at Ferris Center for years, and has been a delegate to the biennial meetings of the national organization of the Gleaners, both at Saginaw, this state, and at Toledo, Ohio.

M. C. ARBOGAST.

Among the well-known farmers and stockmen of Montcalm county, Michigan, is M. C. Arbogast, who was born in Ontario, near Stratford, Canada, on April 13, 1878. He is the son of Michael and Margaret (Brunner) Arbogast, the former of whom was born in Ontario, Canada. The father of Michael Arbogast came from Germany to Canada, where he lived the remainder of his life. Margaret Brunner was the daughter of Thebolt Brunner, who was reared in Germany and who came to Canada with his wife and one child in the early days.

The parents of the subject of this sketch lived in Canada for about twenty years before coming to Montcalm county, Michigan, where Mr. Arbogast bought three hundred and twenty acres of land, now part of the farm of one hundred and sixty acres occupied by George Arbogast. Michael Arbogast lived on this farm until his death. He became well known throughout the county and was looked upon with great esteem and respect by those in the community. To Mr. and Mrs. Arbogast the following children were born: John, who resides in Chicago; Edward, a resident of Pine township; George, who has taken charge of his father's farm in this county; Emma, the wife of George Hinkle, of Pierson township; Clara, the wife of Andrew Voss, of Luther, Michigan; Mary, who married Martin Straight, of Carson City; M. C., the subject of this sketch; Maggie, who died at the age of twenty-two years, and Carrie, the wife of George Rader, who lives in Pierson township.

M. C. Arbogast, after the death of his father, assisted his brother

George with the work on the home farm until four years ago, when he left for a year's travel in the West and in Northern Canada, revisiting the scenes of his boyhood. He returned to the farm which he had bought previous to taking his trip and has resided there ever since. The farm which consists of one hundred and twenty acres of land is located in section 7, Maple Valley township, and Mr. Arbogast also owns eighty acres in section 8. This eighty acres is part of the home place. Mr. Arbogast keeps in close touch with the advancements made in agricultural life and believes in modern methods of farming. His farm is in an excellent state of cultivation and is located in an attractive setting.

On November 26, 1913, M. C. Arbogast was united in marriage to Charlotte Chapple, the daughter of John Chapple, well known in this county, where he is a resident of Maple Valley township. Mr. and Mrs. Arbogast are the parents of one child, Wendell James, born on February 16, 1916. In political affairs, Mr. Arbogast devotes his interests to the cause of the Republican party. He also takes an active part in school affairs, and formerly held the office of school treasurer of the township. Mr. Arbogast is a stockholder in the State Bank of Montcalm county, and has served as director of this concern since 1911.

BYRON A. GRAHAM.

Byron A. Graham, a prominent farmer cultivating "Sunnyside Farm," located near Coral, Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Heath township, Allegan county, Michigan, on November 7, 1855. a son of Archimedes and Helen C. (Buffum) Graham, natives of Wisconsin and New York states, respectively.

Archimedes Graham, when a young man, went to Branch county, Michigan, where he was married to Helen C. Buffum, who came with her parents to Branch county, after which he engaged in farming for some time and then he bought twenty acres of land which he cultivated for a short time, later selling this land and moving to Burr Oak, where Archimedes Graham died in 1865. Archimedes and Helen C. Graham were the parents of five children: Byron A., William C., a farmer of Branch county, Michigan; George L., a farmer of Antrim county, F. M., a machinist of Englewood, Colorado, and one child who died at the age of six years.

Byron A. Graham was reared on the home farm and educated in the

public schools of Branch county, Michigan, after which he started to make his own way in the world, his father having died when he was but ten years of age. After some years as a farm helper on the farms of his community, Byron A. Graham was married and then he moved to Montcalm county, in 1901, where he purchased a farm which he has greatly improved and where he is now engaged in general farming. On his farm of eighty acres, Mr. Graham has placed good buildings and the most approved equipment and is now one of the successful men of agricultural life, in Winfield township, or the vicinity. Mr. Graham suffered severe loss by fire on three occasions, his residences and their contents and a barn and its contents being destroyed.

In 1882, Byron A. Graham was married to Elizabeth Osborne, who, five years later, was drowned together with their infant child in a flood in Kansas, where he then resided, also where he was first married. In 1890, Mr. Graham was married to Augusta Smith, who was born in New York state, a daughter of well-known people of her native community. By his former marriage, Mr. Graham is the father of one son, George L., a motorman on the Detroit street railway.

Fraternally, Mr. Graham is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, Mr. Graham is a Republican.

RANDALL FRY.

Among the well-known farmers and stock raisers of Reynolds township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Randall Fry, who was born in Chemang township, Chemang county, New York, on November 6, 1854, a son of Albert G. and Sarah (Hall) Fry, natives of New York state. Randall lived in New York until he was twelve years old.

After his marriage in New York state, Albert Fry, his wife and family moved to the state of Wisconsin, and then moved to Michigan, and located near Grand Rapids, later coming to Reynolds township, where the elder Fry homesteaded eighty acres of land, about the year 1870, and also took up forty acres under a soldier's claim, and where he lived for the remainder of his days, dying in 1894. Albert Fry was a veteran of the Civil War, having served with the Twenty-third New York Volunteer Infantry, and was a man who was active in the public affairs of the communities of his residence. Albert and Sarah Fry were the parents of the following chil-

dren: Elmer, of the Travers City hospital; Wealthie, a school teacher of Bendon, Michigan, and Randall.

Randall Fry was educated in the schools of Elmira, New York, and Grand Rapids, after which he became a farmer. After some time he purchased the farm where he now lives, in Reynolds township, Montcalm county, he and his sister making their home together. On his well-improved and modernly equipped farm, Mr. Fry now engages in general farming and in the raising of high-grade Holstein cattle, the product in this line being of the best to be found in the community. Mr. Fry now owns two hundred acres of land, all of which is well cared for and which is cultivated after the thorough and practical methods of scientific farming.

In the political and official life of Reynolds township, Montcalm county, Randall Fry takes an active part, now serving his township as justice of the peace, an office which he is serving in an able manner. Politically, Mr. Fry is affiliated with the Republican party. In former times he was active in the work of the Montcalm county Grange, and is a farmer and citizen who is interested in the advancement and progress of the farming interests.

JULIUS KREEGER.

Julius Kreeger, one of the property owners of Sidney, Montcalm county, Michigan, is also very active as an agriculturist and in township affairs. He is a native of Germany, having been born in that country on May 13, 1842. He is the son of John and Elizabeth Kreeger, who were also natives of Germany. John Kreeger was a shoemaker and lived and died in his native country, his widow then uniting in marriage with a Mr. Apple and both remained in Germany until death.

Julius Kreeger remained in his native land until he was of a mature age, learning and following the baker's trade for seven years prior to his immigration to this country, which took place in July, 1865. He sailed on a three-mast ship and was ninety days making the voyage. Upon his arrival, he at once located in Albion, Michigan, where he remained for nearly five years. He then moved to Berry county, Michigan, in Irwin township, purchasing forty acres of unimproved land on which he lived seven years. At that time the place was sold and his present farm was purchased. This property is located one mile south from the town of Sidney and consists of sixty acres.

On August 31, 1884, Julius Kreeger was married to Lena Kime and to this union six children have been born: George, Harry, William, Fred (deceased), Bertha and Edith. Edith married Nels Anderson and lives in Greenville, Michigan. Fred died when three years of age. The mother of these children is a native of Marshall, Michigan, but her parents were natives of Germany. She and her husband are members of the German Lutheran Evangelical church. Julius Kreeger is a staunch Republican. As a school director he has served for many years and has also been highway commissioner, as well as road overseer. In all respects he has proven worthy the respect placed in his ability. He made many improvements on the present farm, which is in a good state of cultivation. He carries on general farming and stock raising.

ERNEST A. BLACK.

Ernest A. Black, widely known as the owner of "Pine Hill Stock Farm," on which he engages in general farming and in the raising of high-grade live stock, was born on the farm where he now lives in Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, on March 15, 1877, the son of Frederick and Wilhelmina (Zeline) Black, natives of Oldstattin, Germany.

Frederick Black, after serving in the War of 1866, in Germany, and following his marriage in that country, came to America and settled in Ontario, Canada, in which country he made his home until 1868, when he moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, working in the locality of that city, as a general laborer for a short time, after which Frederick Black came to Michigan, and purchased, in March, 1872, forty acres of land in Winfield township, Montcalm county. After some years, during which time he was prosperously engaged in general agricultural pursuits, Frederick Black retired from active life as the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of land in Winfield township. The elder Black died in the year 1898. Frederick and Wilhelmina Black were the parents of the following children: Hattie, the wife of William Engleman, a clothier of Howard City; Max C., of Montana; Victor J., a farmer of Montcalm county; Fred W., who conducts a meat market at Augusta, Michigan; Ida, the wife of William Purdy, who is the proprietor of a general store, at Augusta, Michigan, and Ernest, the subject of this sketch.

Ernest A. Black was reared on the home place, received his education



MR. AND MRS. ERNEST A. BLACK AND RESIDENCE.

in the common schools of Winfield township, after which he became a farmer, remaining on the farm of his father, as an aid to the elder Black. After the death of his father, in 1898, Ernest A. Black took possession of the home farm, where he now makes his home as a general farmer and stock raiser. On his choice farm of two hundred acres, Ernest A. Black now conducts one of the best known and most successful stock farms of the community, specializing in the breeding of Holstein cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, the product of Mr. Black in his work being of high grade and of a quality which brings the best prices for his stock.

On December 24, 1900, Ernest A. Black was married to Minnie Olsen, daughter of Ole and Marie (Isaacson) Olsen of Winfield township. To the marriage of Ernest A. and Minnie Black have been born six children: Fred, Olena (deceased), Milan, Marjorie, Edmund and Ila, all of whom live at home. Mr. Black and his family are active members of the German Lutheran church, they taking an interested part in the work and worship of this denomination.

In politics, Ernest A. Black is a Republican and although he has taken no especial part in the political efforts of the county, he is respected and esteemed as a citizen having at heart the welfare of the community and as one who gives of his time and lends his influence for the support of measures and men who are interested in the progress and advancement of life and conditions in Winfield township and Montcalm county.

ASHER R. NOAH.

Asher R. Noah, the son of William and Hannah (Goble) Noah, was born on November 13, 1855, in the state of Ohio and came with his parents to Montcalm county, in 1856, when but six months old.

Asher R. Noah remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age. His early life was spent in assisting with the work on the farm and attending the common schools of his township. When old enough he assisted the neighbors with their work, in addition to the labor on the home place. After devoting one year to the mill business, he disposed of his interests and returned to the home of his parents, at which time he was engaged in the lumber trade and did some speculating on a small scale.

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Some time later Mr. Noah was united in marriage to May Albertson, the daughter of Clark and Mary Ellen Albertson and to this union the following children were born: Lyndon C., at home; Arthur, a potato buyer; Earl C., at home, and Mildred at home.

Mr. Noah at the time of his marriage owned forty acres of land, a part of the eighty acres where they now live. The greater part of the original forty was cleared by the individual efforts of Mr. Noah. By diligence and strict adherence to the duties of his farm, he has succeeded in the establishment of a most comfortable home, surrounded by well-cultivated fields. He believes in intensive farming, so as to get from the soil all that it is capable of producing.

Politically, Mr. Noah is an advocate of the principles of the Republican party, but is not an active politician and has never been an office seeker.

Mr. Noah is a member of the Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Even Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

GEORGE H. MINARD.

George H. Minard has been very active in local politics for many years and still takes a lively interest in all public questions. He is a liberal supporter of the Congregational church, in which he is a member, and is highly respected as a citizen. In past years he has been active in the agricultural interests of this section but is now retired, although he still owns and resides on sixty acres of land in section 27, of Sidney township, about three and three-quarters miles northwest of the town of Sheridan, Michigan. He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on October 2, 1841, and is the son of John and Rebecca (Hilliard) Minard, both natives of Pennsylvania. They were reared in that state and married there, removing to Noble county, Indiana, where John Minard was employed as a railroad operator. He was killed near Galion, Ohio, in 1849, leaving his wife and five children to mourn his loss. Three of these children are now living: Martin, now living in Oregon, who enlisted in Company G, Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in the battle of Shilo, near Corinth, Mississippi, being wounded so badly that he was discharged; Margaret A., wife of Phillip Burlingame, and George H.

George H. Minard was but ten years of age when his parents removed to Noble county, Indiana, receiving his education in that locality. When

the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in Company G, Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, on September 2, 1861, and served in the Army of the Cumberland. He remained with this company until the fall of 1862, and then in 1864 he re-enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment, being mustered out on August 30, 1865. He was orderly sergeant of his company and now receives pension for past services. After the war he returned to Noble county, Indiana, and later went to Illinois, but soon returned to Noble county, and thence to Michigan in the winter of 1867. Two years later he returned to Noble county, Indiana, remaining there until the fall of 1871. He then located in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan.

On March 26, 1866, George H. Minard was united in marriage to Mary T. Barnes, of Noble county, Indiana, whose death occurred in 1878. His second marriage was to Phoebe Hooker, of Montcalm county, Michigan, who died four months after their union. He then married Arena McCloy and they became the parents of three children: Maud B., wife of Charles Olsen, of Greenville; Arthur B., who married Josephine Olson, and Kittie, who married Clay White, of Sheridan, Michigan.

George H. Minard is a member of the Tom Custer Post No. 178, Grand Army of the Republic, and in his fraternal relations he is a member of the Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, being the eldest brother of the organization and has served in every office save that of master. Mr. Minard and his wife are members of the Congregational church.

JAMES DEYOUNG.

James DeYoung has been identified with church and civic affairs of Evergreen township, Montcalm county, Michigan, for the past seventeen years and more. He was born on January 6, 1852, in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is the son of William and Mary (Menderhoughst) DeYoung. William DeYoung was born in New Amsterdam, Holland, and immigrated to America with his parents, James DeYoung and his wife. They located immediately in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they were engaged in agricultural pursuits. James lived on his farm until he was very aged and then moved to Grand Rapids, where his death occurred. Mary Menderhoughst, also, was a native of Holland and immigrated to the United States with a young woman, locating in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Here she was married

to William DeYoung, who was engaged in the mill business in and around Grand Rapids until during the last four or five years of his life. They then removed to Crystal township, Montcalm county, where his death occurred.

James DeYoung followed his parents to Crystal township and on October 2, 1873, he was married to Henrietta Garlow, who died after a few years of wedded life. On December 8, 1880, he was married to Libby Sinkey, daughter of Abe Sinkey, and to them were born these children: Wilbert H., Perry and Nina J. Wilbert H. died when two years of age; Perry J. lives in Montcalm county and Nina J. is the wife of Earl Chapin, who operates a portion of her father's farm. This place is devoted to the raising of various kinds of fruit and is called "Fruit Farm."

James DeYoung was employed in the mill business for twelve years after his arrival in Stanton, Michigan, purchasing a farm at this time on which he has continued to live until the present time. The original property consisted of forty acres but has since been added to, until at the present time it contains seventy-five acres. Mr. DeYoung and his wife are members of the Methodist church in Stanton, Michigan, in which denomination he is steward and has been superintendent of same for seventeen years. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of the Maccabees, in the Stanton lodge, while his political affiliations are with the Republican party. He has served on the township board of review and for three years past has been acting as school director.

GEORGE A. KRUM.

George A. Krum is of pioneer parentage and was born on September 28, 1872, in Kent county, Michigan, just north and west of the town of Lowell. He is one of the representative agriculturists of this section, being the owner of three hundred acres of well improved land in Evergreen and Day townships, Montcalm county, Michigan. The farm is owned by George A. Krum and his uncle, George W. Krum. This property is located four miles east of Stanton. George A. Krum is the son of Edwin and Temperance (Evans) Krum, natives of Vergennes, Kent county, Michigan, and Canada, respectively. Edwin Krum was the son of Abraham Krum, who came from Ulster county, New York, and purchased government land at a very early date. Temperance Evans was the daughter of John Evans. They were married in Kent county, and Edwin Krum died there at thirty-five years of age, his widow later marrying Del Krum. She is now a widow

and still lives in Lowell, Michigan. By her first union she was the mother of two children, Helen, who died when young, and George A.

George A. Krum remained under the parental roof until he was eighteen years of age, at that time engaging in various kinds of employment until he was twenty-one. On January 17, 1893, he was united in marriage to Jessie Epley, daughter of Henry and Phoebe Epley, and to them were born four children, two of whom are now living: Maurice, who married Mary Mosier and they have one child, Keith; Herbert, who died at the age of eight months; Russell, who lived at the age of eight months, and Marion, who is six years of age. The mother of these children was born in Montcalm county, Michigan. After their marriage George A. Krum and wife lived on their farm in Kent county until thirteen years ago, at which time they moved to where they now reside, known as the "Westerwax Place." George A. Krum is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Stanton Lodge No. 202, also of the Encampment. Politically, he is a staunch Republican. He raises mixed stock, horses and mules and carries on general farming.

JOHN A. GOLDEN.

John A. Golden has been identified with the business and agricultural life of Montcalm county, Michigan, for a great many years and has operated the Golden Hotel for more than ten years, being its builder and manager. He is a native of this state and his birth occurred on November 26, 1869, in Ottawa county, where his boyhood days were spent on the home farm. His education was received in the district schools of Ottawa county, where his studies were discontinued at the age of seventeen. He then removed to North Dakota, where he remained for a period of two years, returning to his boyhood home to engage in the pursuit of agriculture which he followed for six years. On April 18, 1893, John A. Golden was united in marriage to Elizabeth McCarthy, a former schoolmate and neighbor, and to them have been born three children: Edward, a graduate of the local high school and now a student of the Michigan State University; Bernard, a graduate of the high school, and Donald, who is a student of the high school.

After his marriage John A. Golden rented his father's farm for six years at six hundred dollars per year, subsequently moving to Spring Lake

where he became identified with the business interests of that place for a short time. He then located in Coopersville, Michigan, for two years after which he purchased a hotel in Cedar Springs and operated it for two years. Following this venture he came to Howard City, which is now his home. The Golden Hotel is the only one in Montcalm county that has not changed hands five or six times since local option has ruled politics. Mr. Golden is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of Big Rapids, Michigan, while his wife is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. Formerly he was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, but now votes independently.

Elizabeth (McCarthy) Golden, prior to her marriage, was a teacher in the public schools and has been a constant help and inspiration to her husband in his commercial and domestic relations. She is the daughter of John and Bridget (Maloney) McCarthy and received her education in the Spring Lake schools, having graduated from the high school of that town. Her parents were both natives of Ireland and immigrated to America prior to their marriage. They married in Ottawa county, Michigan, and remained there until death, the husband following farming, which vocation resulted in prosperity in return for his well-directed efforts.

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

John H. Mitchell is one of the active agriculturists of Montcalm county, Michigan, who have earned a comfortable competency from the soil. He was born on September 22, 1875, in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the son of J. W. and Malissa (Boughey) Mitchell. J. W. Mitchell was born in Vermont and came with his parents, Charles K. and Harriett (Peabody) Mitchell, to Michigan in 1855. His birth occurred in 1840. They located immediately in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, purchasing eighty acres of land on which they resided until death. Harriet (Peabody) Mitchell died on August 19, 1895, her husband having preceded her by two years.

J. W. Mitchell remained under the parental roof until his marriage to Malissa Boughey, at which time he purchased a place in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, Michigan. This farm was virgin soil and unimproved but was so well managed and cultivated that it became one of the best farms in the state. At his death J. W. Mitchell was the owner of

three hundred acres of land, all of which he had acquired through thrift and well-directed effort. Eighty acres of this land was the original home place, which his father had purchased on his arrival in this state. Malissa (Boughley) Mitchell was born in Ohio and came to Michigan with her parents when a young woman. They located in Bushnell township where her marriage was solemnized. J. W. Mitchell and his wife were the parents of these children: Julia, who is the wife of Frank Nole and lives in Ellendale, North Dakota; Olive Laverne is the wife of C. W. Cahoon and their home is in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Peter C. lives in Brooksville, Florida; John H.; Daisy, wife of Robert Bliss and living in Ionia township, Ionia county, Michigan. J. W. Mitchell was a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons.

John H. Mitchell was reared on the home place, remaining there until twenty-one years of age, which was one year after his marriage. This event took place on June 26, 1895, at which time he was wedded to Rachel Belyou, daughter of Patrick and Margaret Belyou, who were the parents of eight children, namely: Catherine, wife of George Tyler, living in Ontario, Canada; Margaret, wife of Fred Feller, of Ionia, Michigan; Mary, wife of Osner C. Osborn; Isabella, wife of Dallas A. Fowler, living in Taber, Alberta, Canada; James C. lives in Evergreen township, Montcalm county; Andrew, deceased; Rachel, and George, deceased. Patrick Belyou was born in Belfast, Ireland, and at the age of fifteen years ran away from home and emigrated to America, locating in Springfield, Ohio, where he worked in the powder mills until 1861. He then enlisted for service in the Civil War, being mustered into Company D, Forty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Captain Tully. After the close of the conflict he located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he remained for four years, thence removing to a place near there where he purchased fifty acres of land and lived until his entire family were reared, with the exception of the youngest child. They came to Michigan in 1877 and located in Kent county, where they settled on forty acres of land which he had purchased. Eight years later they removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, where he invested in forty acres of land in Bushnell township. After eight years spent on that place they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Evergreen township, remaining on this property until death. On June 6, 1893, the death of Patrick Belyou occurred and his wife followed on August 30, 1913.

John H. Mitchell rented a farm in Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, soon after his marriage, removing in two years to Carson City.

Michigan, where he engaged in the livery business for one year. He then rented the farm of his father for one year, at which time he began the management of one hundred and sixty acres owned by his wife's mother and which he now owns. In the spring of 1915 they removed to the place where they now live. This farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres, located northeast of the town of Sheridan, Michigan. John H. Mitchell is serving his third term as township supervisor of Evergreen township, having been elected on the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Gleaners.

MERTON D. GATES.

Merton D. Gates is the owner and manager of the potato farm known as the "Oasis," and which is located southeast of Stanton, in Evergreen township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He has also been closely identified with the fraternal, political and educational activities of this locality. He was born on May 29, 1876, in Willets, Courtland county, New York, and is the son of George H. and Evaline A. (Smith) Gates. George H. Gates was the son of Simon Gates, who was a Yankee, while his wife was a French woman.

George H. Gates was left an orphan at the age of ten years and remained in his native state until several years after his marriage to Evaline A. Smith. She was the daughter of Thomas Smith, who came from England, but she was a native of Courtland county, New York. When Merton D. Gates was five years of age his parents located in Maple Rapids, Clinton county, Michigan, where they remained for two years. His father followed the trade of harness-maker until 1883, at which time the family moved to Stanton, Michigan, where they lived for four years. Sometime later they purchased forty acres of land on which they remained until death, Merton D. Gates then assuming charge of the place. They were the parents of two children, Jesse L. and Merton D.

Merton D. Gates remained with his parents until twenty-five years of age, receiving his education in the common schools of the township. At the age of twenty-one he opened a shop on his savings, and this place was operated for a period of two and one-half years. He then took possession of the present farm which he has improved and operated ever since. On April 22, 1901, Merton D. Gates was married to Emily A. Frisbey, daugh-

ter of Joseph and Martha (Wood) Frisbey, and they are the parents of six children: Elmer H., Wesley L., Lyman B., Wilda May, Lea I. and Orvis Fay. The parents of Emily A. (Frisbey) Gates came from Putnam county, Ohio, in 1899 and located in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where their daughter met and married Mr. Gates.

Politically, Merton D. Gates is affiliated with the Republican party, serving as justice of the peace for the past six years. His fraternal relations are with the Pine Grove Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Encampment No. 89 and Canton, Montcalm, No. 18. He is also a member of the Evergreen circle of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and of the Equitable Fraternal Union. As treasurer of the Haines school district No. 8, he has served faithfully and well, also as school moderator. His farm of two hundred acres, which he has acquired by well-directed effort, is an example of what energy and thrift will accomplish.

ALBERT MADISON.

Albert Madison is a native of Nakskor, Lolland, Denmark, and is one of the stable, honest citizens of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He was born on January 5, 1863, and is the son of John and Christina (Jacobson) Madison, both natives of Denmark. Parents and children emigrated to America in 1872, arriving on May 24 in the port of New York, and came direct to Sidney township, this county, where John Madison engaged in the shoemaking trade, which he had followed in his native land. On December 28, 1893, the wife and mother passed way, and her husband is now residing with his son, Albert Madison. The names of their children follow: Albert, Millie, wife of William Foss, of Chicago Illinois; Lou, who died in 1914; Martin, living in Kent county, Michigan; James, also living in Kent county; Hannah, wife of George Everson, of Windsor, Canada; Emma, wife of Peter Jensen, of Sidney township; Rosa, wife of Walter Nelson, of Sidney, township, and Flora, wife of Elza Van Ellen.

Albert Madison came to America with his parents when he was nine years of age, beginning his effort toward the support of the family when he reached the age of twelve years. He was employed as a farm hand until he was eighteen years of age, at that time engaging in the lumber business in the capacity of woodsman and saw-mill operator, continuing in this

occupation until the age of twenty-six. He then purchased a farm of forty acres on which he has since resided. •

On June 8, 1893, Albert Madison was married to Bina Rassmussen, daughter of John Rassmussen, and of this union three children have been born: Milo, Lucile and another who died in infancy. Bina Rassmussen was born in Denmark and emigrated to the United States with her parents when a baby in arms. She and husband are both members of the Danish Lutheran church and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, of Sidney, Michigan. Politically, Mr. Madison is affiliated with the Republican party. In his fraternal relations, he is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324 Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. Albert Madison is a good farmer and has acquired a comfortable competency through sheer effort and energy. His property consists of one hundred and fifty acres of land, located four miles west of Sheridan, Michigan, and two and one-half miles south and one mile west of Sidney. His present comfortable home was built in 1893. Since then Mr. Madison has built a good barn and other outbuildings, and now has his place well equipped for general farming and stock raising.

WILLIAM M. CLARK.

Among the leading men engaged in farming and stock raising in Evergreen township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is William M. Clark, owner of "Hill Crest Stock and Fruit Farm," who was born in Leonidas township, St. Joseph county, Michigan, on April 6, 1872, the son of Albert and Rosamond J. (Davis) Clark, natives of Erie county, New York, and of the state of Ohio, respectively.

Albert Clark became an orphan when he was quite young, after which he lived with an uncle in New York state until he was twenty-five years of age, when he went to the state of Ohio, and there, after some time, he was married to Rosamond Davis, who was the daughter of his employer. Later, with his wife, Mr. Clark moved to Leonidas, St. Joseph county, Michigan, where he purchased eighty acres of land on which he lived as a general farmer for the remainder of his days. Following the death of Albert Clark, his widow and children came to Montcalm county, the mother dying in this county about one year later. Albert and Rosamond Clark were the parents of six children, namely: Ida, the wife of Mottram Hill, of

Kalamazoo county, Michigan; Bertha, the wife of Stratton Pomeroy, of Mishawaka, Indiana; Edward, a carpenter, living with his brother, William M., the subject of this sketch; Mellie, who is deceased, and Orma M., who lives on a farm in Evergreen township.

William M. Clark received his education in the common schools of St. Joseph county, Michigan, after which he worked on the home farm until 1897, when he came to Montcalm county, and purchased a farm of eighty acres in section 11, Evergreen township, to which place Mr. Clark has since added forty acres. On his land in Evergreen township William M. Clark now is successfully engaged in general farming and in the raising of high grade live stock.

On April 11, 1894, William M. Clark was married to Manty Simons, a daughter of James Simons and wife, of Kalamazoo county. To the marriage of William M. and Manty Clark have been born seven children: Eva Belle is the wife of Glen McCarty, who after graduating from the Stanton high school and normal school, became a student of the Ferris Institute of Big Rapids, and is now teaching in Big Rapids; Ada H., who is a graduate of the Stanton high school and who has completed her course of study at the Stanton Normal School; Rosamond, a student of the Stanton high school, and Harlow H., Ethel, Edith and Ida, who live at home. Mr. Clark and his wife are active members of the Baptist church at Crystal, Michigan.

William M. Clark is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners at Evergreen Center, and is a citizen who takes a nactive interest in the affairs of the Republican party in Montcalm county.

SEYMOUR J. CASE.

Seymour J. Case, successful farmer and one of the best-known citizens of Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Crystal township, this county, on April 27, 1860, a son of Chauncy and Mary (Tissue) Case, natives of Washtenaw county, Michigan, and Auglaize county, Ohio, respectively.

Chauncy Case was born in 1832 and was a son of George and Emeline (Doty) Case, who came from New York state to Washtenaw county, Michigan, about 1838, settling among the earliest people of this locality. Later, George Case lived on the site of the present state prison and while on his

way to Thorn Apple to secure material for a hotel building at Ionia, which at that time was a pioneer settlement, the elder Case was drowned while fording the Grand river. Emeline, the widow of George Case, afterward was married to John L. Smith, they living on a part of four hundred acres of land which Mrs. Emeline Smith secured in Crystal township, this county, land which, with the exception of one hundred and sixty acres, was some time later apportioned among the three children of Mrs. Smith, by her first marriage, and forty acres each to the two children by her second marriage.

Chauncy Case, after the completion of his education, worked on the home farm for some years, and then, having on January 1, 1857, been married to Mary C. Tissue, a daughter of James and Maria (Neff) Tissue, Chauncy Case proceeded to cultivate and to prepare for further cultivation, his eighty acres of land which he had received from his mother. For many years Mr. Case was active in the efforts to make more habitable the land in the region of his farm, acting as a guide to new settlers and spending a great part of his time in the making of roads and in the improvement of the settled land.

Chauncy Case served as treasurer of Crystal township for some time and for some years was a member of the board of supervisors who were active in the building up and the improving of pioneer conditions in this township. Mr. Case was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and together with his wife was active in the work and worship of the Congregational church. Chauncy Case died in May, 1911, and his wife died in 1907. Chauncy and Mary Case were the parents of five children: Emma M., the wife of E. W. Johnson, of Seymour; Marian, the deceased wife of Bird Sigsby; Estella, wife of William Bogert; Minnie, who died at the age of seventeen years, and Seymour J.

Seymour J. Case was reared on the home farm, received his education in the common schools of his locality and then remained as a farmer on the home place until after his marriage, when he moved to a farm of ninety acres, located near the old homestead in Crystal township, Montcalm county, where he has since been engaged in general farming, his success in his efforts being well known in the community.

During the year 1886, Seymour J. Case was married to Nettie J. Morgan, who died in 1888. Following the death of his wife, Mr. Case, on November 22, 1891, was married, secondly, to Eleanor A. Lewis, who was born in Ionia county, a daughter of William and Salome (Omans) Lewis, natives of Pennsylvania and of Ohio, respectively, who after their marriage, in the early sixties, moved to Ionia county, Michigan. In early life William

Lewis had been a sailor on the Great Lakes, later becoming a farmer and a butcher, his trade as a butcher serving him in good stead in his new locality, he furnishing meat to the pioneers of the community, and later to the state prison, at Ionia. The elder Lewis lived near Orleans, in Ionia county, until about 1888, when he moved to Ferris township, Montcalm county, and farmed for a time. William Lewis spent his last days among his children, dying on February 22, 1900, survived by his wife, Salome, who died in 1911. To the marriage of Seymour J. and Eleanor Case have been born four children: Versel C., Alvin James, who married Chloe Green, they being the parents of one son, James; Clinton R. and Lila.

Mr. Case is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the encampment, at Stanton, and is a man who is found in the front ranks of all movements for continuing the work of progress which was so able conducted by the father and grandfather of this citizen whose efforts in behalf of the community, as a private citizen and as township treasurer for two years, has given him such a worthy place among the respected and esteemed people of Crystal township and Montcalm county.

AMMON E. THOMPSON YOUNG.

Ammon E. Thompson Young, one of the best known citizens of Crystal, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he now is engaged in the management of the opera house of that town, was born in the state of Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1857, a son of the Rev. John George and Lydia Ann (Artz) Young, natives of Pennsylvania.

The Rev. John George Young, who was a well-known minister of the German Lutheran church, was born in Fryburg, Pennsylvania, on February 17, 1808, and after the completion of his education became a minister of the German Lutheran church, serving this denomination as a circuit rider for twenty-eight years. In May, 1866, the Reverend Young moved to Salt River, now Shepherd, in Isabella county, Michigan, and became the owner of a combined saw and flour-mill, together with the conducting of a mercantile business, for the remainder of his active life. He died on July 27, 1881; his wife, Lydia, died at Salt River, on October 1, 1882. John George and Lydia Young were the parents of ten children, of whom Ammon E. Thompson Young was the youngest.

Ammon E. Thompson Young received his education in the schools of

his native county, and in the schools of Salt River, Isabella county, Michigan, to which locality the family moved when he was about nine years of age. After his school days, Mr. Young and his brother assisted in the operation of his father's mills, after which Ammon E. entered the hardware business, in which he continued until about 1883. At this time, because of failing health, he went to the state of California, remaining there for one year, after which he returned to Salt River, Michigan, and from the year 1884 to 1888 was assistant postmaster, serving with his brother, A. L. Young, who was postmaster of that town. In 1888 Mr. Young again went to the state of California, where he lived until 1893, and then returned to Michigan, and spent a part of the winter with his brother, A. L., who at that time was register of deeds at Mt. Pleasant, Isabella county. Early in the year 1894, Ammon E. Thompson Young went to Leonardsville, New York, where he lived for two and one-half years and then he moved to Rising Sun, Wood county, Ohio, where he took charge of a large livery barn, for a nephew, J. A. Stahlman. This was during the time of the oil boom, and the barn had the care of twenty-eight livery horses, thirty boarding horses and found work for about five employees. After some time, Mr. Young returned to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and for one and one-half years served as deputy sheriff and turnkey, under Sheriff Mugg. In 1899 Mr. Young moved to Crystal, Montcalm county, where he became advance agent for the Roberts & Smith Tent Show Company, which was showing Uncle Tom's Cabin, with a troupe of thirty people. Following the show season, Mr. Young returned to Crystal and lived for a time with his brother, Dr. Philip Young. Some time later, Mr. Young took charge of the local hotel on Lake Crystal, which he managed until about 1908, at which time he sold the property to Bert Selvers, the showman, who now occupies the place as a residence. On July 22, 1915, Mr. Young purchased the opera house at Crystal, which he now conducts, together with caring for his extensive real-estate holdings in Crystal.

On May 19, 1900, Ammon E. Thompson Young was married to Mrs. Laura (Woodruff) Case, widow of the late James Case. She was born in Farmerton, Oakland county, Michigan, a daughter of David and Mary (Sage) Woodruff, the former born in Farmerton, Oakland county, Michigan, a son of John Woodruff and wife; the latter born in New York state, a daughter of Joseph Sage and wife.

David Woodruff grew to maturity in Oakland county, as did his wife, who came to this county with her parents at an early date. Late in the year

1840, David Woodruff moved to Ionia county, Michigan, and settled in the as yet unsettled territory, where they lived the life of pioneers, being compelled to accept its privations and sacrifices for many years, and in the meantime taking no small part in the development of the community. In 1860, David Woodruff moved to Montcalm county, and settled on what now is the Kirkland farm in section 29, Crystal township, living there for about five years and then moved to a place about six miles south of Ionia, where they spent their last days.

Mrs. Young was an infant when her parents moved to Ionia county, in which the daughter lived until 1860, when she was married to James Case, who was born where the state prison now stands, in Ionia county, a son of George and Emeline (Doty) Case, natives of New York state, who came to Washtenaw county, Michigan, later to Ionia county, where the elder Case was drowned while fording the Grand river, on his way to Thorn Apple, to secure material with which to erect a hotel building at Ionia, then a pioneer settlement. After the death of George Case, the widow was married to John Smith. They moved to Montcalm county, and with the proceeds from the sale of their land in Ionia county, purchased considerable land in this county, the greater part of which was later apportioned among the five children of Mrs. Smith.

In 1860, James Case and his wife, Laura (who is now Mrs. Young, wife of the subject of this sketch), moved to Montcalm county, and located on what is now known as the Lester farm, in section 29, Crystal township. At this place Mr. and Mrs. Case lived until 1868, when they moved to the town of Crystal, making their home at that place. Mr. Case engaged in the business of a contractor, and erected a large hotel, which was destroyed by fire, after which he rebuilt and it was conducted by Mr. Case until his death on February 24, 1898, at the time of his death being fifty-two years of age. James and Laura Case were the parents of four children: Eva, who was the wife of Cornelius De Young; she died on October 20, 1907, survived by her husband and two children, Ernest and Lillian, the latter of whom now is the wife of Harry Rogers, they being the parents of one child, Adeline, and three children, all of whom died in infancy.

Ammon E. Thompson Young is one of the leading citizens of Crystal, and while he has taken no especial part in the political life of this community, his interest in public matters and his varied experiences and training in a number of lines of endeavor, have demonstrated his worth and value as a citizen to the locality.

Fraternally, Mr. Young has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since the early eighties. Genial, kind and hospitable, accomplished as a reader and entertainer, and well informed on all matters of import, Mr. Young has made a host of friends in this community and takes a prominent place in the affairs of the town and county.

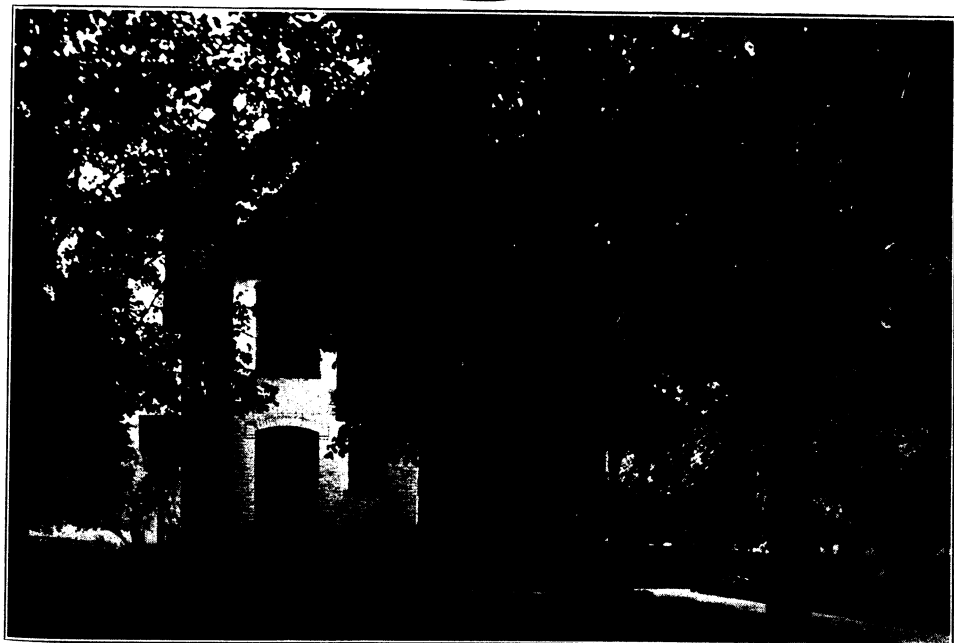
BENSON L. GAFFIELD.

Benson L. Gaffield, successful farmer, able business man and formerly prominent in the official life of Montcalm county, now engaged in general agricultural pursuits on "The Maples," a farm of one hundred and sixty acres located near Howard City, in Winfield township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Canada, on September 21, 1854, a son of John and Mary (Moore) Gaffield, natives of New York state. John and Mary Gaffield were the parents of two children: John W., a former sheriff of Montcalm county, now living at Six Lakes, and Benson L.

Benson L. Gaffield was reared in Canada, receiving his education in the schools of that country, after which, in 1874, he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, with his parents, and worked on the home farm until he was twenty-five years of age. About the year 1880 Mr. Gaffield took charge of the home farm, in Winfield township, and lived there as a general farmer until 1899, when he went to Stanton and became treasurer of Montcalm county.

During the year 1879 Benson L. Gaffield was married to Alice L. Sage, a daughter of Emery and Martha (Holten) Sage, and who after the completion of her education at Battle Creek College, became a school teacher. Benson L. and Alice L. Gaffield became the parents of two sons, George B., who after graduating from the Stanton high school became a student at the Michigan Agricultural College, of Lansing, Michigan, and John L., who died at the age of nineteen years. Mrs. Gaffield is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Howard City, being active in the work of this congregation.

Benson L. Gaffield is perhaps best known in Montcalm county for his part in the official life of the county, for six years having been an able and efficient treasurer of this county, as was evidenced by his re-election to this office on two occasions. In addition to his service as a county official, Mr. Gaffield, for six years, was a supervisor of Winfield township. Mr. Gaffield is a Republican.



BENSON L. GAFFIELD AND RESIDENCE.

As a business man, Benson L. Gaffield has taken an important place, having been a member of the firm of Stebbins & Gaffield, of Stanton, furniture and hardware dealers, for about one year. Mr. Gaffield now is a director and vice-president of the Stanton Bank, and he is a stockholder of the Union Telephone Company. The part taken by Benson L. Gaffield in the affairs of Montcalm county has done no little to make the community a better place in which to live.

RAYMOND A. PINTLER.

Raymond A. Pintler, one of the best known merchants and citizens of Entrican, Montcalm county, Michigan, a man who has done much for the advancement of the general welfare of this community and a citizen who is held in high esteem by all, was born in Greenville, this county, on June 11, 1875, a son of Jerome and Martha' (Godfrey) Pintler, the former born in Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York, on September 28, 1845, a son of Jacob and Dorothy (Swezey) Pintler; the latter born in Kent county, Michigan, a daughter of Smith D. Godfrey and wife.

Jacob Pintler was a native of Pennsylvania, living in that state until he reached maturity, when he went to Orange county, New York, there being married to Dorothy Swezey. About 1852 Jacob Pintler and his family moved to the state of Michigan and located in Kent county, later, about 1862, moving to Eureka township, near Greenville, where the elder Pintler lived until 1870 and then went to Coral, Maple Valley township, this county, where he lived as a farmer for the remainder of his days, Jacob Pintler dying in 1895; his wife, Dorothy, in 1893.

Jerome Pintler grew to manhood in Kent county, Michigan, living in that community until October 4, 1863, when he enlisted in Company E, Tenth Michigan Cavalry, with which command he served in the Civil War, as a part of the Eastern Army, until November, 1865, when he was mustered out of service at Cairo, Illinois. Following his military days, Mr. Pintler returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, and was engaged in general farming on the home place until 1869 when, having married, he went to Greenville and for about four years was employed in the saw-mills and in the lumber industry of that locality. He then moved to Douglas township, this county, near Entrican, where he secured a farm of eighty acres, located

in section 22, and on this place engaged in general farming together with dealing in lumber, as a jobber. After clearing his land and improving it Jerome Pintler lived on it for about thirty-eight years, and then selling his land Mr. Pintler, in April, 1915, came to Stanton, this county, where he now lives a retired life.

During the year 1869 Jerome Pintler was married to Matilda Godfrey, and to this marriage were born two children: Raymond A., and Maude, who is the wife of Lewis Park, of Day township, they being the parents of three children, Clarence, Emma and Mattie.

As a citizen and as a former office holder, Jerome Pintler takes an important place in Montcalm county, having served on the Douglass township board of review for some time, and has been delegated to various state and county political conventions as a representative of the Democratic party, in the organization of which Mr. Pintler is a well-known worker.

Fraternally, Jerome Pintler is a member of the Montcalm County Grange, an organization of which he has been a member for thirty-five years, and he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Entrican. Mr. Pintler also is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 37, at Stanton.

Raymond A. Pintler, when two years of age, came with his parents from Greenville to Douglass township. On a farm in this township, he was reared and in the schools of this locality he received his early education. Mr. Pintler lived on the home farm until about 1897, when, having married, he went to Edmore, this county, and for one year was employed at the Edmore creamery. He then became a traveling salesman for the Cyclone Wire Fence Company, of Holland, Michigan, for three years, after which he returned to agricultural life, buying eighty acres of land in Douglass township, adjoining the town of Entrican. This land Raymond A. Pintler improved, and, as a farmer, prospered, later adding to his original farm forty acres of land, all of which he cultivated as a general farmer for about seven years. Mr. Pintler then engaged in the operation of a lumber-mill for two years, after which, in 1908, he purchased his present store in Entrican, erecting a building for his business where he since has been a successful general merchant together with the conducting of an ice factory, which industry he opened in 1914, and the product of which he sells at various markets throughout the county and vicinity. In addition to his other enterprise, Mr. Pintler is the agent for the sale of the "Independent" silos.

On December 10, 1896, Raymond A. Pintler was married to Grace Starkweather, who was born in Greenville, Montcalm county, and to this marriage has been born one child, Lyle, born on November 20, 1898, and now associated with his father.

Grace Starkweather is a daughter of Ross and Josephine (Green) Starkweather, the former born on April 9, 1842, a son of Alfred Starkweather and wife; the latter born in Greenville, Montcalm county, on June 15, 1845, a daughter of John and Deborah (Clark) Green, early pioneers of Montcalm county, it being for John Green that the town of Greenville was named.

John Green was born on February 4, 1804, at Broadalbin, Fulton county, New York, and his wife, Deborah (Clark) Green, was born on September 10, 1806, at the same town, the latter being the daughter of Asa and Deborah Clark, born on February 3 and October 30, 1765, respectively.

When children, John Green and Deborah Clark were childhood playmates, the farms of their fathers being in the same neighborhood, near Broadalbin, New York. On January 17, 1827, John Green was married to Deborah Clark, after which they settled on a farm in their native community, where they lived until 1834. Then, disposing of their farm near Broadalbin, New York, they moved to Prattsburg, Steuben county, New York, living there for six years, after which they returned to their native county, where they made their home until 1844. At that time, with their four children, Mr. and Mrs. Green started for the state of Michigan, going to Buffalo, New York, by canal-boat, from there on a Great Western steamer to Detroit, Michigan, then to Jackson by rail, thence on a flat-boat, which also contained the first carding machine imported into this county, they came down the Grand river to Portland, Michigan, and from there to what is now the site of Belding, Ionia county, by team.

At Belding, John Green gave over his family to the care of an uncle, Samuel Demorest, and started out to find a suitable place for permanent settlement. After some time Mr. Green came to the site where Greenville now stands, buying a mill-site here, on which he erected a mill, from the surrounding timber, together with the building of a primitive house and then sent for his wife, she being the first white woman to enter what is now the town of Greenville. With the aid of two cousins, John Green operated his mills, at the same time clearing the land nearby and platting out town lots, which later he sold to settlers whom he induced to locate in this community.

Soon Mr. Green established a little store and in partnership with Able French conducted this trading post, John Green being the second merchant to conduct a store in this place.

During the year 1845, one year after settling in this locality, Josephine, the youngest daughter of John Green, was born, she being the first white child born in Greenville, and the same year Deborah, the eldest daughter, was married on January 24, to Abe Roosa, the first blacksmith of Greenville, this marriage being the first to be performed in the village, and to this union were born three children, Della, John (deceased) and Valois. Since this time, the other children of John and Deborah Green have married as follow: Susan Green was married to Alfred Roosa, January 24, 1856, they being the parents of two children, Delos and Ernest. John Green, on December 8, 1857, was married to Laurretta Fuller, three children having been born to them, Mina, who married Albert Carpenter, of Greenville; Flora, the wife of Ed Pixley, of Greenville, Michigan, and Chauncy, who married Edna Goble, they now living at Durand, Michigan. Josephine Green was married, on January 1, 1864, to Derosney Starkweather. Washington Green was married on March 11, 1868, to Olive Curtis, there having been two children born to this marriage, May and William.

John, Susan, Washington, John, Jr. and Deborah Green are deceased. they having died on October 13, 1856; September 29, 1873; October 27, 1884; July 3, 1897, and April 26, 1881, respectively.

Josephine (Green) Starkweather, who is the mother of Mrs. Pintler, the wife of Raymond A. Pintler, was the first white child born in Greenville, Montcalm county, at which place she lived until after her marriage to Derosney Starkweather, when they moved to Stanton, Montcalm county, living there for some time and then the family returned to Greenville. Mr. Starkweather died at Hemingway Lake, after an active life as a machinist and as a man prominent in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Greenville, as well as having been a well-known member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the same city. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Josephine Starkweather lived at Greenville for some time and then moved to Entrican, where she now makes her home.

Ross and Josephine Starkweather were the parents of three children: Alfred, born on November 9, 1864, and who died when six years of age; M. L., born on February 16, 1869, now a traveling salesman for a saddlery and harness company of Kansas City, Missouri, he being married and the father of one son, Harvard and one daughter, Grace, the wife of Raymond A. Pintler.

Raymond A. Pintler, the subject of this sketch, is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Entrican, having served as treasurer of this lodge since its organization. He is a prominent member of the Knights of the Maccabees, at Entrican, and is active in the affairs of the Montcalm County Grange.

Politically, Mr. Pintler is a Democrat, and while he has taken no especial part in the political or official life of his community, he is known to be a citizen who has the interest of the community at heart and as a man who is willing at all times to lend of his aid and assistance in the promotion of the general welfare of Montcalm county and of the town of Entrican, where he is one of the esteemed and honored citizens.

MELVIN C. HUBBARD, M. D.,

Melvin C. Hubbard of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on March 15, 1880, in Wright township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, and is the son of Byron A. and Martha (Allen) Hubbard. Byron A. Hubbard was born in April, 1858, in Wright township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, and was reared as a farmer, which occupation he still follows. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, all of which he rents out. His residence is in the town of Waldron, Wright township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he is serving in the office of justice of the peace. He was elected to this office in April, 1915. Martha (Allen) Hubbard was born in February, 1859, in Amboy township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, receiving her education in the schools of that locality. On March 14, 1878, Byron A. Hubbard and Martha Allen were united in marriage and five children were born to their union: Melvin C., Lily, wife of Ray Greek, of Ransom township, Hillsdale county, Michigan; Glenn resides in Wright township, Hillsdale county; Nina, who teaches school in Ransom township, Hillsdale county, and a child who died in infancy. The parents of these children are members of the Church of Christ, of Waldron, Michigan.

Melvin C. Hubbard was reared in his native township and received his initial education in the district schools of that locality and in the schools of Waldron, Michigan, where he was a student for nearly three years. He then taught school for one year in Hillsdale county, after which he became a student in the Fayette Normal School in Fayette, Ohio. He then taught

school again, in his home town, for one year. Having determined to dedicate his future to the practice of medicine, he became a student in the Detroit Medical College, in Detroit, Michigan, from which he was graduated with the class of 1906. After receiving his degree as Doctor of Medicine he engaged in the general practice of this profession in Vestaburg, Michigan, and has since opened a drug store for the benefit of the public. The stock of drugs was purchased of J. H. Owen but the building was especially erected by Doctor Hubbard, being opened to the public in July, 1915. In the fall of 1914 he was successful in passing the pharmaceutic examinations at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and received his state license. The Gratiot County Medical Association as well as the State Medical Association claim him as a member. He is also eligible to membership in the American Medical Association. He was formerly health officer for the town of Vestaburg, Michigan, and in many ways has been active for the improvement of the civic life of the community. Politically, he is an active Republican, although more or less independent in his voting, being firm in the belief that the best man should be elected.

On June 2, 1906, Dr. Melvin C. Hubbard was united in marriage to Edna L. Hannibal, daughter of Wallace and Orilla (House) Hannibal, and to them were born two children. Edna L. Hannibal was born on October 6, 1882, in Jefferson township, Hillsdale county, Michigan. Doctor and Mrs. Hubbard are members of the Church of Christ and are very active in the work.

BERT ALVIN ELDRIDGE.

Bert Alvin Eldridge, successful farmer, dairyman and stock raiser, and a man well known for his part in agricultural life of Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born where he now lives, in section 22, Crystal township, this county, on August 19, 1870, a son of James S. and Harriett (Higgins) Eldridge, natives of Kent county, England, where they spent their early life and where they were married.

James S. Eldridge, who was a son of Timothy and Fanny (Sellen) Eldridge, after his marriage, in 1858, came to America and located at Detroit, Michigan, from there he went to Newaygo county, afterward moving to Lake View, and from there, in 1864, came to Crystal township, Montcalm county. In Crystal township the elder Eldridge secured eighty acres of

uncleared land in section 22, which he cleared and prepared for cultivation, adding such improvements as were necessary for pioneer life.

James S. Eldridge was a prominent citizen of his community in his day, his patriotism and his public spirit being matters of note, qualities which he demonstrated by his service as a soldier in Company G. Fifteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War, as well as by his efforts, as drain commissioner, to the building up and improvement of Montcalm county, in the days of early settlement. In addition to his farm activity, the elder Eldridge for some years operated a saw-mill in his community. As a minister of the United Brethren, the Baptist and the Church of God churches, and as a devout temperance worker, James S. Eldridge served his community and according to his light gave of his time and effort for the development of the life and interest of Montcalm county. As a business man, James E. Eldridge was one of the organizers and a heavy stockholder of the Crystal Telephone Company. James S. Eldridge died in May, 1910, at the age of eighty-six years. James S. and Harriett Eldridge were the parents of five children: Eli A., William Elisha, Addie C., Bert A. and Nettie, who died in 1890.

Bert Alvin Eldridge was reared on the home farm and was educated in the common schools of Crystal township, Montcalm county. After his school days Mr. Eldridge became a farmer, a vocation which he has since followed, on the old Eldridge farm, he now, in addition to the original eighty acres, having added land until he owns one hundred and sixty acres of well-tilled and highly improved land. Mr. Eldridge now engages in general farming, in dairying and in the raising of live stock, being one of the most successful men of this line of activity, in the county.

During the year 1892, Bert Alvin Eldridge was married to Cora Drum, who died on July 16, 1894. On December 31, 1899, Mr. Eldridge was married, secondly, to Clara Groom, who was born in Ionia county, Michigan, and to this marriage have been born seven children: Alden J., Leona May, Carl Theodore, Lyla Belle, Walter Henry, Florence and Donald G.

Mrs. Eldridge is a daughter of John H. and Emeline (Criel) Groom, natives of Shelby township, Orleans county, New York, the former born on May 8, 1842, a son of William and Rebecca (Moyer) Groom, natives of upper Canada, where they were married on October 7, 1834, after which they moved to New York state, then to Genesee county, Michigan, William Groom dying at Flushing, not long after the close of the Civil War.

John Groom, who was a blacksmith, followed his trade until August

26, 1863, when he enlisted in Company L, Tenth Cavalry, a command with which he served, in the Civil War, until October, 1864, when he was discharged on account of physical disability. After the war, Mr. Groom, in the spring of 1865, moved from Fenton, Genesee county, Michigan, to Iona county, where he farmed until 1882, and then came to Crystal township, Montcalm county, where he bought forty acres of land and farmed until June, 1911, and then moved to Butternut, which place is now his home.

John Groom was married on August 17, 1862, to Emeline Croel, a daughter of Silas and Ruth (Saxon) Croel, of New York state, who moved to Genesee county, Michigan, in 1855, and after ten years in that locality moved to Ionia county, where they spent their last days. To the marriage of John and Emeline Groom were born ten children, eight of whom survive.

John Groom was a prominent member of the Grand Army of Republic, at Crystal, having served as commander and also as officer of the day; and Mrs. Groom was active in the affairs of the Woman's Relief Corps, having served as president of that organization for two years.

Bert Alvin Eldridge and his family are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Eldridge is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees. He is one of the highly respected citizens of this community.

WILLIAM H. PUGSLEY.

William H. Pugsley, prosperous farmer and well-known citizen of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Devonshire, England, on April 9, 1850, a son of William and Sarah (Ayres) Pugsley, natives of England.

William Pugsley, Sr. came to America in 1854 and settled at Chagrin Falls, Ohio, near Cleveland, where he lived for ten years and then, in 1864, moved to the village of Sumner, Gratiot county, Michigan, there becoming one of the early settlers and following his trade as a tailor, although he was the owner of a farm in the community. The elder Pugsley lived at Sumner, Gratiot county, until his death in 1882; his wife, Sarah, lived until 1911. William and Sarah Pugsley were the parents of two children, William H. and Lena.

William H. Pugsley lived at home and was educated in the public schools of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Sumner, Michigan, after which he worked

with his father and was employed variously in his locality until after his marriage, when he became an employee of a furniture dealer at St. Louis, Michigan. On account of failing health, Mr. Pugsley found it necessary to retire from his work at St. Louis, and he returned to Sumner, Gratiot county, and purchased the local hotel, which he conducted for two years. He then traded the hotel property for his present farm in section 36, Ferris township, Montcalm county, which he rented and then engaged in the operation of a mill near Wheeler, Michigan, for several years, during which time he also lived as a farmer for one year.

Mr. Pugsley was engaged in the saw-mill and lumber business until 1891, when he moved to his farm of one hundred and seventy acres in Ferris township, Montcalm county, and here he has since lived as a general farmer. Since coming to his farm, he has cleared considerable of the land, has erected a substantial brick residence, located on rising ground, has built other buildings, including a tenant house, and he has added land until now he has a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, which is known throughout the community as one of the most desirable places of the county.

In 1877, William H. Pugsley was married to Albina Fowler, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of Benjamin and Ann (Reader) Fowler, natives of England, who came to America and located at Chagrin Falls, Ohio, later moving to Sumner, Gratiot county, Michigan, where Mr. Fowler was a farmer until after the death of his wife in 1894, when he made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Pugsley until his death in 1909. Benjamin Fowler, who was widely known as "Uncle Ben" Fowler, was one of the best known men of the community, not only among the farmers, but among the lumbermen, with whom he worked and dealt in the winter months.

To the marriage of William H. and Albina Pugsley have been born five children: Charles, of the state of Washington, who married Alta Flint, they being the parents of two children, Cecil and Joy; Arthur, who married Iva Dayton, they living on a farm near Sumner, Gratiot county; Ada, wife of Charles Jolly, a farmer of Ferris township, this county, they being the parents of one son, Forrest; Benjamin, living on the home place, who married Pearl Black, to this union there being born one daughter, Alice, and Leah, who lives with her parents.

William H. Pugsley, during the past few years, has devoted some time to travel, having made a journey to his native country, and while there visited the grave of his grandfather, John Pugsley, who was a soldier of the British army for twenty-one years, during which time he served under the Duke of

Wellington, at the battle of Waterloo, receiving a medal in recognition of his services; and Mr. Pugsley has also made a trip to the Pacific coast, his observations in this region furnishing material for much entertainment as he reviews his travels and experiences.

LEMUEL J. TEED.

One of the prominent citizens and a man who has been active and successful as a farmer, business man, minister and office holder, of Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Lemuel J. Teed, who was born in Wood county, Ohio, on October 27, 1853, a son of Rev. Joseph B. and Louisa J. (Stone) Teed, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Crawford county, the latter in Erie county.

When Lemuel J. Teed was six months of age, in 1854, the father, Joseph B. Teed, together with his family, moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, and settled in North Star township, the Teed family being the third to locate in that township. Here the Reverend Teed homesteaded a farm on which he lived until 1864, and then disposing of his original farm he bought another farm located about three miles further into the unsettled country. After three years on his second farm, Joseph B. Teed, in the spring of 1867, moved to New Haven township, Gratiot county, where he lived for the remainder of his days, dying in 1879, at the age of sixty-one years; his wife, Louisa, survived her husband until 1890.

Rev. Joseph B. Teed was married to Mary Jane Richardson, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Crawford county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Robert Richardson and wife. To the marriage of Joseph B. and Mary Jane Teed were born six children: Martha, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Olive, who is the wife of Nathaniel Carbaugh; Annie, deceased; James, of Gratiot county, and Anderson, who was born on October 2, 1851, was married to Mary Jane Calvin, of Crawford county, Pennsylvania, who died on March 20, 1907, survived by her husband and two children. The two children of Anderson Teed are Perry, who is a railway man; and Bessie, the wife of David Minnis, of Greenville, Mercer county, Pennsylvania, they being the parents of three children, Paul Anderson, William and Mary Jane. Anderson Teed now lives with his brother, Lemuel T., of this sketch.

Joseph B. Teed was married, secondly, to Louisa J. Stone, and to this marriage were born seven children: Lemuel T., Seymour S., who lives

on the old homestead in New Haven township, Gratiot county; Anna Jane, who died in 1876; George Henry, who lives at Boise City, Idaho; William, who lives in the eastern part of Crystal township; Eliza, the wife of Elias Van Horne, who lives in the southeastern part of Crystal township, and Frederick, who lives at Butternut, Montcalm county.

Rev. Joseph B. Teed, for many years, was a pioneer minister of the United Brethren church, later becoming a minister of the Church of God, as a minister of these churches this good man having done much and served to a great purpose among the early settlers of this community.

Lemuel J. Teed lived with his father until sixteen years of age. Having completed his education in the common schools of Gratiot county, he worked in the lumber camps and on the rivers of his locality, until 1877, when he became a farmer on forty acres of land which he purchased in Crystal township, Montcalm county. After clearing his land of timber, on a lumber contract, Lemuel J. Teed disposed of his original land and invested in a farm located over the county line, in Gratiot county, Michigan. Two years later, Mr. Teed sold his land in Gratiot county, and in 1883 purchased his present farm in section 12, Crystal township, Montcalm county, clearing this land and adding improvements until now it is one of the most desirable places of the community.

During the year 1889 Lemuel J. Teed entered the ministry of the Church of God. For two years Rev. Lemuel J. Teed served as a minister to the lumbermen in the lumber camps of the woods of this locality, men whom Reverend Teed recalls as always kind and sympathetic in their dealings with him in his efforts to improve the moral atmosphere of their environment. The Reverend Mr. Teed also served as a circuit rider in Clare and in Isabella counties, Michigan, serving the ministry, with the exception of eight years, up to the present time.

During the year 1896 Lemuel J. Teed was elected, as the candidate of the Republican party, to the office of supervisor of Crystal township, this good citizen serving with his characteristic efficiency in this capacity until 1901, when he was elected to the office as register of deeds, taking office at Stanton, in January, 1902, and serving four years. While in this office Mr. Teed became interested, financially, in a store, at Crystal, conducting this store for about four years after retiring from public office. Following his business career, Mr. Teed resumed his duties as a minister, later taking up his work as a farmer and then, in 1915, returning to public life, at that time being elected to the office of supervisor of Crystal township, this county.

Lemuel J. Teed was first married to Ella Blood, of Englishville, Kent

county, Michigan, she dying at the time of the birth of the first child, who also failed to survive. Later, Mr. Teed was married to Hannah Ball, of Butler, Dekalb county, Indiana, she, too, dying after thirty-four years of married life, there being no children by this marriage. Thirdly, Lemuel J. Teed was married to Myrtle McCracken, a daughter of James McCracken and wife, of Crystal, Montcalm county. To the marriage of Lemuel J. and Myrtle Teed was born one son, Lemuel James, on March 23, 1913. Myrtle, the wife of Lemuel J. Teed, died on April 3, 1913, and on November 12, 1913, Mr. Teed was married, fourthly, to Azalia Dunkling, who was born in Lockport, New York. Her parents moved to Seville township, Gratiot county, Michigan. They were James and Susan (Jellings) Dunkling.

Lemuel J. Teed is one of the respected and honored men of this community, his active and useful life having had no small part in the development of the township and county to its present advanced state of progress and interest.

JOHN PHILIP YOUNG, M. D.

The late Dr. John Philip Young, who for many years was a leading physician and honored citizen of Crystal, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1842, a son of the Rev. John George and Lydia Ann (Artz) Young, natives of Pennsylvania, where the former, for many years was a circuit-rider minister of the German Lutheran church.

John Philip Young received his early education in the common schools of his native county, and at the Jefferson Academy, Pennsylvania, where he prepared for the study of medicine. He later pursued the study of medicine at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and graduated from the medical department of the University of Keokuk, at Keokuk, Iowa, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

When seventeen years of age, John Philip Young enlisted with a Pennsylvania regiment for service in the Civil War, serving under General Thomas and participating in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Murfreesboro, also taking part in Sherman's march to the sea, as far as Atlanta, from which place he returned to Tennessee, with the army of General Thomas.

In 1870, Dr. John Philip Young came to Crystal, Montcalm county, and engaged in the practice of his profession until 1882, when he went to Cali-

fornia, where he practiced medicine and surgery until 1898. At this time, Dr. Young returned to Crystal, where he lived until 1902, again going to California, where he lived for the remainder of his days, dying on March 14, 1904, as a result of hemorrhage.

On February 9, 1871, Dr. John Philip Young was married to Sarah A. Murtha, and to this marriage were born five children: Elton, Nellie and an infant son, who are deceased; Audley, a physician of Oakdale, California, and Ethel, a musician, who lives at Oakdale, California, with her mother.

Doctor Young not only was notably successful as a physician, but as an educator and teacher was well known, having for a number of years served as county superintendent of schools of Isabella county, in which he, at one time, was a school teacher. Doctor Young was an active and prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and served in the capacity of acting colonel commander of the Michigan Civil War veterans in their reunion in 1901.

As a physician and citizen, Doctor Young was one who was generally loved by all, his clean, moral life, his strong character, which was exemplified by his many kindly deeds, and his careful and strict attention to the duties of his profession having given him a permanent place among the worthy people who have lived and served in this community.

GEORGE A. BRAMAN.

George Arthur Braman is a native of Montcalm county, Michigan, having been born in the southwestern part of Crystal township on May 4, 1883. He is the son of George and Mary A. (Bancroft) Braman, pioneers in this section of the state and among its most highly respected and esteemed residents. The Bancrofts were among the earliest settlers in Montcalm county and a more extensive account of their labor here is given in the account of the life of George Braman which appears elsewhere in this volume. The subject of this sketch was reared to the discipline of farm life on the homestead farm belonging to his father. He was educated in the common schools and later attended Ferris Institute and upon returning home resumed his interest in farm life, with which he has been identified ever since. He is a man who has inherited his father's traits of thrift, progressiveness and perseverance and has developed to the highest degree his own attributes of strong character.

The marriage of George A. Braman to Inez McConkey was solemnized on March 21, 1907. Mrs. Braman, who is a native of Abington, Illinois, is the daughter of Marchand J. and Anna Belle (Crosson) McConkey. Her father was born in Richland county, Ohio, near Mansfield, and is the son of R. H. McConkey. When M. J. McConkey was a young man he went to Illinois where he worked as a farmer until his marriage. After his marriage to Anna Belle Crossman, who was born and reared near Abington, he rented a place near Abington, which is located in Knox county, Illinois, and farmed independently. Later, probably in 1901, he moved with his family to Iowa where he remained until 1903, when he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, for permanent residence. At the present time he resides on a farm in the northeastern part of Evergreen township. Mrs. Braman lived with her parents until her marriage. She attended high school at Crystal and before her marriage taught school in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Braman have the following children: Marvin Arthur, Doris E., Beulah Leone and Lester W.

Mr. Braman takes an active interest in the industrial and social life of the community and occupies a place of high standing in Crystal township.

FRANK PLATT.

Frank Platt is a public spirited man with progressive ideas and sterling traits of character. He was born on October 26, 1862, in Trumbull county, Ohio, and is the son of Jeremiah and Caroline (Geiger) Platt, both natives of Pennsylvania, Ohio. Frank Platt is one of eleven children born to the union of his parents, five of whom are now living. He was but one year old when his parents located in Springport, Jackson county, Michigan, and consequently received his education in the schools of Jackson county. He was reared as a farmer but engaged as a stage driver for eight months in Washington Territory, making daily trips of sixty miles. Following this experience, he rented one hundred and sixty acres of land and continued to cultivate same for two years. He then rented eighty acres in Jackson county, Michigan, and operated this for two years, removing to his present place of one hundred and twenty-seven and one-half acres, on October 13, 1896. This property was then so wild that a horse could not be turned around in the under brush, but is now a well-improved farm known as "Rock Lake Farm."

On December 25, 1889, Frank Platt was united in marriage to Frances Torrant, daughter of Richard and Ann (Palmer) Torrant, and five children

were born of their union: Earl, Bernice, Elsie, Harry and Russell. Bernice teaches in the Cutler Savage school, in Home township, Montcalm county, Michigan. Elsie is a student in the normal school in Stanton, Michigan. The parents of these children are members of the Rock Lake Congregational chapel, and are active in its support.

In the civic and political life of the community, Frank Platt has taken active interest, serving in many offices of trust. For ten years he was school inspector and is treasurer of the school district at the present time, having served in this capacity for the past five years. He served as roadmaster of the road district and as highway commissioner while a resident of Jackson county, Michigan. He is a member of the Republican party and votes that ticket at all elections.

WILLIAM E. STRAIT.

One of the prominent farmers and stock raisers and a man who has taken an important place in the citizenship of Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is William E. Strait, who was born in Black Hawk county, Iowa, on December 14, 1876, a son of John B. and Catherine (Johnson) Strait, a sketch of whose lives appear elsewhere in this volume.

William E. Strait was about two years of age when his parents returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, after nine years residence as farmers in Black Hawk county, Iowa. After one year in Ferris township, Montcalm county, they moved into the northern part of Crystal township, where William E. Strait now lives, and where his father lived on forty acres of land which he purchased and cleared of the timber. On this farm, John B. Strait and his family lived until December, 1903, when he and his wife moved to the town of Crystal.

After the completion of his education in the common schools of Crystal township, William E. Strait became a farmer, working on the home farm for some time after which he and his brother, Milo M., purchased twenty acres of partly cleared land in section 34, Ferris township. The two brothers worked together and prospered and added to their acreage, until they were the owners of two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land, which they cultivated as partners until 1911, when they divided their holdings, William E. Strait retained forty acres where he now lives and eighty acres of land located on the opposite side of the road. Since becoming an independent farmer Mr. Strait has added to his land until now he owns two hundred and seventy-three

acres of land, including the old home place. On this land, this progressive farmer engages in general farming, making a specialty of stock raising, his product in this line being of the best to be found in the community. Mr. Strait has only recently added a small herd of thoroughbred Shorthorn Durham cattle to his stock.

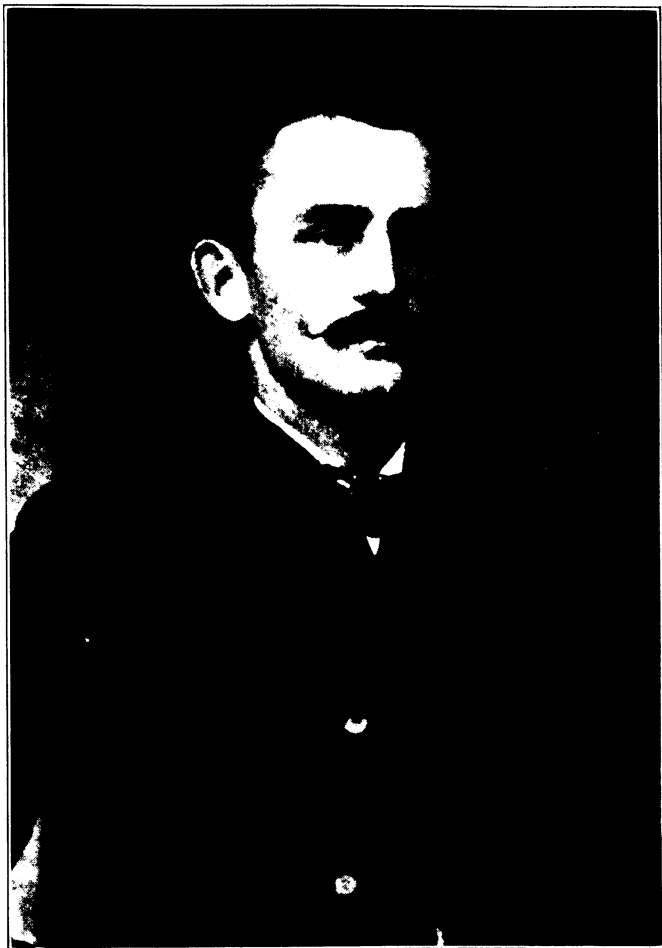
In 1899 William E. Strait was married to Alma Dolloff, who was born in the south part of Ferris township, Montcalm county, a daughter of La Forrest and Arvilla (Covall) Dolloff, pioneers of Montcalm county, a sketch of whose lives will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Strait was educated in the schools of Ferris township, graduated from the high school branches of study and completed her education at Grand Rapids and Chicago, after teaching two years in this community. To the marriage of William E. and Alma Strait have been born five children: Mary Belle, Thelma, Katherine, Mildred and Marshall.

Mr. Strait, in addition to his agricultural duties has found time to serve in public office, for the past six years having served as a director of the school district. Mr. Strait is one of the foremost farmers and citizens of Montcalm county, and has the respect and esteem of all.

HEZEKIAH PLATT.

Hezekiah Platt was well known for his sterling character and congenial and unassuming manner. He was born on October 8, 1864, in Jackson county, Michigan, the son of Jeremiah and Caroline (Geiger) Platt. Jeremiah Platt was born in Ohio, where he was reared and educated, and located in Jackson county, Michigan, subsequent to his marriage in Ohio. His vocation in life was farming which he followed until death. Caroline (Geiger) Platt was also a native of Ohio, and came to Michigan with her husband and children. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are living at the present time: Matilda, wife of John Wagner, of Springport, Jackson county, Michigan; William, who operates the old home place, in Jackson county; Martha, wife of Henry Nessner, of Jackson county, Michigan, and Frank, who lives in Richland township, of this county. The parents of these children were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and active in its support. The death of the father occurred in 1903, and that of the mother in 1911.

Hezekiah Platt was reared as a farmer on the home place, and received



HEZEKIAH PLATT.

his education in the schools of that locality, but later entered the business life of the community by engaging in the general merchandise business, which he followed for five years in Springport. On March 28, 1897, he located on the farm of three hundred and twenty acres which he devoted to general agriculture and stock raising. This place is known as "Maple Grove Farm," and here Hezekiah Platt spent the rest of his life, dying suddenly of apoplexy, on December 16, 1915. His remains were interred in the Vestaburg cemetery, the funeral being in charge of the Masons.

In the civic life of the community, Hezekiah Platt took an active part and served in the office of highway commissioner of Richland township, Montcalm county, as well as treasurer of the school district for nine years. He was elected as township treasurer also, but declined the honor. Fraternally, he was affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons, in the blue lodge in Edmore, Michigan.

On April 1, 1890, Hezekiah Platt was united in marriage to Myrta Chappell, daughter of John Chappell, and three children were born of the union, namely: Edith, Helen and Jesse. Edith is a graduate of the Brainard Hospital, of Alma, Michigan, and is now a student in the normal college of that town. Helen and Jessie, age fourteen and nine, respectively, attend the district school.

PETER A. KLEES.

Among the prominent farmers and well-known citizens of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Peter A. Klees, who was born on the farm where he now lives in Ferris township, this county, on October 3, 1879, a son of Peter and Mary A. (Kneer) Klees, a review of whose lives will be found elsewhere in this volume, under the name of John Klees.

Peter A. Klees has lived since his birth on the place where he now resides, with the exception of six months when he lived with a brother. Mr. Klees received his education in the public schools of Ferris township, after which he took up the duties of farm life, working with his father until the death of the latter in 1911. Mr. Klees then purchased the home farm, to which he has added land until now he is the owner of sixty acres of well-improved and thoroughly cultivated land in Ferris township. As a farmer Peter Klees has proved to be a thorough success, his product being of the best and his methods of agriculture being after the most approved methods. Mrs.

Klees gives special attention to the raising of thoroughbred Single-Comb White Leghorn chickens and also Light Brahma chickens, the stock being of the choicest to be found in the community.

On June 18, 1910, Peter Klees was married to Innis Lang, who was born in Sumner township, Gratiot county, Michigan, and after the completion of her education at the Mt. Pleasant Normal school, she became a school teacher, following this profession for three years prior to her marriage. To the marriage of Peter and Innis Klees has been born one son, Donald, born on December 18, 1911.

Mrs. Klees is a daughter of William and Isadora (Giles) Lang, the former of whom was born in England, about 1855, and when fourteen years of age came to America, with his parents, John and Jane Lang. Soon after reaching America, the elder Lang came to Sumner township, Gratiot county, where he purchased a farm and lived there as a general farmer, at the same time engaging in threshing and other machine work. The elder Lang was assisted in his farm and machine work by his son, William, who married Isadora Giles, of Sumner township, a daughter of John and Ellen Giles, early settlers of Sumner township, Gratiot county, Michigan.

Peter A. Klees is prominent in the affairs of the Grange in Gratiot county and in the state of Michigan, Mr. Klees having been a member of the Gratiot County Grange for more than sixteen years, and now is master of the Gratiot County Grange, as well as being the gate-keeper for the Michigan State Grange.

ALBERT O. STONE.

Among the well-known farmers and highly respected citizens of Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Albert O. Stone, who was born in Watson township, Allegan county, Michigan, on October 8, 1854, a son of Alfred and Abigail (Howe) Stone, natives of New England, the former born in Vermont.

During the year 1855, Alfred Stone, with his family, came to Montcalm county, Michigan, and as a pioneer settler established a home among the woods and uncleared land of Ferris township, after many years of privation and hardship becoming one of the successful farmers of the community, as well as a successful dealer in lumber. The elder Stone was active in the official life of Montcalm county in the early days, having served in several

minor township offices, and was county superintendent of the poor for about twelve years. Alfred Stone died in 1898 after a highly useful life, mourned by a host of friends. Abigail, the widow of Alfred Stone, now lives on the old homestead and although she is eighty-four years of age, she is yet active and alert in all of her faculties and in the management of her affairs.

Albert O. Stone received a common school education and remained at home until he was twenty years of age, when he worked out for some time, on the neighboring farms. Following his marriage, when he was twenty-three years of age, Mr. Stone became a farmer on the E. K. Woods farm, near McBride, living there for three years. He then moved to Antrim county, where he farmed for two years, afterward returning to Fairplain township, Montcalm county. After this Mr. Stone moved to the O. J. Houghton farm, located four miles north of Stanton, farming eighty acres of land there for ten years, and then moved to the Chauncy Case farm, near Crystal, where he was engaged in general farming for two years. Albert O. Stone then located on the William Bailey farm north of Crystal, for seven years, later, in March, 1909, he moved to his present farm of one hundred and fifteen acres situated near the east end of Lake Crystal, in Crystal township. Mr. Stone has greatly improved his farm and by the intelligent application of his knowledge of agriculture has become one of the successful farmers of the township and county.

On October 24, 1877, Albert O. Stone was married to Ella L. Starks, who was born in Fairplain township, this county, a daughter of Andrew and Maria (Berry) Starks, who came from Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1856, and settled on a farm which they purchased in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, the elder Starks following his trade as a carpenter, together with farming, for the remainder of his days, dying in 1909; his wife having died in 1908. To the marriage of Albert O. and Ella L. Stone have been born six children: Abbie M., wife of Roy M. Coulter, a farmer of Crystal township; Ethel, who was the wife of Edward J. Evans, and died in 1905, survived by her husband and one daughter, Ethel; Wilma, who lives at Grand Rapids, Michigan; Jesse, who died at twenty-one months of age; George E., a farmer on his father's farm, married Catherine Sherlock, of Ludington, Michigan, and Clare, a barber of Crystal, who married Daisy Drake.

Albert O. Stone and his wife are active members of the Congregational church at Crystal, they being well-known workers of this congregation. Fraternally, Mr. Stone is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the encampment, at Stanton.

CHARLES H. ADAMS, D. V. S.

High professional attainments and distinctive business ability have given Dr. Charles H. Adams a place of honor in the state which has so long been his home. Strong in intellectual and physical powers he has built up a large and substantial practice as a veterinary surgeon and owing to his personal attributes of character has gained a wide popularity among the citizens of the community in which he lives. At Woodville, Ontario, Canada, on July 14, 1865, the subject of this sketch was born. He is the son of James and Elizabeth (Chapman) Adams, the former of whom was born in 1840, at Ythan Lodge, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. James Adams came to this country in 1854, with his father, who was also known as James Adams, and settled in Ontario, Canada, where he followed the occupation of a farmer until 1900. His wife, Elizabeth Chapman, was born at Uxbridge, Ontario, on June 16, 1842, and following the belief of her parents accepted the customs of the Quakers of Pennsylvania. Her marriage to James Adams was solemnized on June 5, 1862, and to this union six sons and two daughters were born, all of whom are living with the exception of one son. Fifteen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Adams came to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, where Mrs. Adams passed away on January 8, 1908.

Charles H. Adams received his elementary education in the public schools of Ontario, and upon completing the course in both of the common schools and the high school, he entered the Veterinary College at Toronto, where with his brother, William Adams, he was a member of the graduating class of 1893. Five days after his graduation he entered on the active practice of his profession in Carson City, Michigan, where he and his brother have built up a large business and gained a reputation for broad and practical knowledge of veterinary medicine and surgery. Aside from the interests of his chosen profession Dr. Adams is often called upon to participate in the industrial affairs of the county in which he lives and has contributed no small share to the prosperity of the community. When the Farmers and Merchants State Bank was organized at Carson City, Doctor Adams was chosen as a member of the board of directors. For five years he has been a member of the city council and has executed the duties of these offices in a manner pleasing to all with whom he has come in contact. He owns, aside from nine hundred acres of land in Alberta, Canada, other securities in Saskatchewan, Canada.

On August 16, 1893, the marriage of Charles H. Adams and Annie E. Leonard took place. Mrs. Adams, who was born in Schomberg, Ontario, is

the daughter of Stephen and Mary Leonard, both of whom reside in Schomberg. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Adams four children have been born, three of whom died in early childhood. Helen is attending school in Carson City. Dr. Adams takes an active part in the social affairs of Carson City where he is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Mason's lodge. He and his wife are also affiliated with the Order of the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs.

CHARLES H. BRAMAN.

By individual effort and strength of character in times of failure, Charles H. Braman has reached the position of prosperity he now enjoys. A native son of Montcalm county and a student of the agricultural possibilities of this section of the state since boyhood, he is rightfully looked upon as an authority on questions pertaining to rural economy. The subject of this sketch was born in the southwestern part of Crystal township, on October 28, 1871, and is the son of George and Mary (Bancroft) Braman, a sketch of whose interesting life in Montcalm county is given on another page of this volume.

After attending the district schools of Montcalm county, Charles H. Braman assisted his father in the work on the farm where he remained until after his twenty-first birthday. He then worked as a lumberman for Brad Hayes and stayed a year in this employment, studying the kinds of timber and the adaptability of each, an experience which proved to be a valuable aid to him later. In April, 1893, he came to his present home which is located on the north shore of Crystal lake. The farm originally consisted of eighty acres which Mr. Braman bought before coming here for residence. At that time thirty-five acres of the tract was unimproved and the buildings on the place were small and crude. He spent a great deal of his time in clearing the land and in 1902 erected a new house. Three years before he had built a large stock barn and smaller buildings. Mr. Braman has continued to add to his possessions from year to year and now owns two hundred and thirty acres. Mr. Braman keeps a high grade of stock and devotes his attention to general farming.

On the 12th of April, 1893, Charles H. Braman was united in marriage to Fannie Swarthout, who was born in Muir, and who is the daughter of Charles Swarthout, an account of whose life is given on another page of this volume. The parents of Mrs. Braman moved to Crystal township when she was a child and she was reared near the home where she now resides. Mrs.

Braman is a woman of great culture and strength of character. She received her education in the high school at Carson City, and qualified for the profession of teaching, an occupation she followed several years before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Braman are the parents of the following children: Nila M., Charles, Julia, Treva and Lyle.

The qualities of honesty and integrity have been recognized in Mr. Braman by the members of the community who have elected him to fill offices of public confidence. He has been a school officer for fourteen years and at the present time is serving as assessor and treasurer of the school district. He has attained this degree of prominence through his own force of personality. His success as a farmer is due mostly to perseverance and foresight. When he came to the farm he now occupies the tract was mostly swamp, a condition which would have discouraged a less experienced farmer. He used many of the methods he had learned from his father, George Braman, who is a pioneer in farm work, and applied them to his own farm. He drained the land and tiled it, using in the process 11,000 pieces of tile, until his farm now represents one of the best cultivated in the community. His work as it stands today is a model of what may be accomplished with small beginnings and meager resources if one has the courage to face disappointment and hardships.

CHARLES R. NICKERSON.

Charles R. Nickerson was born on June 18, 1881, in Fulton township, Gratiot county, Michigan, and is the son of George F. and Cornelia M. (Norton) Nickerson who located in Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1893. George F. Nickerson was born on April 11, 1859, in Southfield township, Oakland county, Michigan, and is the son of Hiram A. and Mary A. (Buckley) Nickerson. Hiram Nickerson was born on April 22, 1836, in St. Lawrence county, New York, his parents locating in Wayne county, Michigan, in 1835. He was bound out to a farmer, by the name of Andrew Porter, until he was eighteen years of age. He married Mary A. Buckley in Pontiac, Michigan, and soon afterward rented a farm in Oakland county, for nearly three years. He then moved to Clinton county by ox-team and remained there for fifteen years, finally locating in Gratiot county, Michigan, where he operated a farm in Fulton township, for five years. He then moved to Crystal township and thence to Vestaburg, Michigan, where he engaged in the livery business with his son, John L. He died in August, 1897 or 1898.

He was a Democrat until he located in this county and then changed his political faith to the Republican party. Religiously, he was a member of the Disciple church, which he joined during a revival in 1870, in Clinton county, Michigan. Mary A. (Buckley) Nickerson was born in 1837, in Lancashire, England, and was the daughter of John Buckley who died in his native land. Her mother then re-married and emigrated to Canada when Mary A. was only thirteen years of age, taking passage in a sailing vessel which was three months and three weeks making the voyage. They located in Toronto, Canada, for some time, thence removing to the states, where they located in Pontiac, Oakland county, Michigan, where Mary A. grew to womanhood and married. Hiram A. and Mary A. (Buckley) Nickerson were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy: George F., John, of Stanton, Michigan; Aurelia, wife of John DeLaney, of Chase county, Nebraska; Emma, married and living at Merionette, Wisconsin; Anna, wife of Henry Mangus; she died in 1912; Louisa, wife of E. T. Westfall, of Scottsville, Michigan. The mother of these children died about 1896, in Fremont, Michigan.

George F. Nickerson was reared and educated in Fowler, Clinton county, Michigan, until he was eighteen years of age, at which time he moved with his parents to Fulton township, Gratiot county, Michigan. On September 8, 1880, he married Cornelia M. Norton, daughter of Andrew J. and Florette (Panny) Norton, and two children were born of the union, namely, Charles, postmaster of Vestaburg, Michigan, and Howard L., who married Edna DeLaney and is now a partner of his father in the meat business. Cornelia M. (Norton) Nickerson was born on November 6, 1860, in Gratiot county, Michigan, and is the daughter of Andrew Norton, who was a native of Cattaraugus county, New York. Her mother was born near Utica, New York. George F. Nickerson cultivated the home place until 1881, at which time he located in Crystal township, this county, for three years, thence moving to Maple Rapids, Michigan. He worked for the Variety Iron Works, in Cleveland, Ohio, for five years, thence moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was employed in a furniture factory. He then engaged in farming in or near Vestaburg, Michigan, until in December, 1912, retiring to the town in July of that year. He is now engaged in the meat business with his son. He owns one hundred and eighty acres of land, located one-half mile from town, which is devoted to general farming and stock raising. He is a member of the Vestaburg Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Free and Accepted Masons, at Edmore, Michigan. He is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, being one of its first members.

He was deputy sheriff for ten years under James Train and Elliott Bellows, and for two years under John Gaffield. He also served as constable of Richland township for a number of years, and as highway commissioner of the township for three terms, serving on the board of review for four years. George F. Nickerson and wife are active members of the Disciple church.

John W. Nickerson, son of Hiram and Mary A. (Buckley) Nickerson, was born on January 29, 1861, in Bloomer township, Oakland county, Michigan, near Orchard Lake, but was educated in Clinton county, Michigan, after which he taught school for eight years in the schools of Clinton, Montcalm, Gratiot and Oceana counties. For eighteen months he read law in St. John, Michigan. On July 29, 1885, John W. Nickerson was married to Nettie C. Miner, daughter of Winfield S. and Elizabeth (Wilsey) Miner, and four children were born of the union: Louis E., September 22, 1886; Lois C., April 3, 1888; Donald H., April 12, 1890, and Vera M., August 26, 1897. Lois C., is the wife of C. J. Brady, Plainfield, Illinois. Mr. Brady is assistant manager of Libby, McNeil & Libby, in Alma, Michigan. Donald H. is a graduate of the high school at Alma, Michigan, and assistant postmaster of Stanton, Michigan. John W. Nickerson located in Vestaburg, Michigan, in the spring of 1886 and engaged in the livery business which he continued until the fall of 1898. The firm was known as Nickerson & Son during the last three years. As township clerk, John W. Nickerson served for seven years. In 1886, he was elected justice of the peace and held the office for thirteen years, at which time he resigned, and in 1890 was elected township treasurer for one year. He also was township supervisor for five years and in 1898 was elected as county clerk, moving to the town of Stanton, Michigan, on December 15, 1898. He was elected to this office twice. Beside his other interests he operates a realty and insurance business. He is an active Republican and was elected as justice of the peace at Stanton, in 1911, and re-elected in the spring of 1915. He is also city ward supervisor. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which order he has been a member since twenty-one years of age.

Charles R. Nickerson was educated in Maple Rapids and in Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduating from the high school in Vestaburg, Michigan. On December 16, 1900, he was married to Minnie Pearl Evans, daughter of John E. and Malissa Ann (Struble) Evans, and they are the parents of one child, Doris M., born on April 17, 1903. Minnie Pearl (Evans) Nickerson was born on November 1, 1883, in Richland township, one and one-half miles north of Vestaburg, Michigan. Her husband was appointed

as rural mail carrier for two years and four months, that being the only rural route at the time. He then held the position of foreman in one of the salting stations of Alart, McGune county, for four years, and on October 23, 1911, received his appointment as postmaster of Vestaburg, Michigan. He has held all chairs in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as well as that of financial secretary, at Vestaburg, and is also a member of the sister lodge. Politically, he is a Republican and has held the office of township clerk for one year.

JOHN AND JOSEPH KLEES.

John and Joseph Klees, well-known farmers and citizens who have been active in the public affairs of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, were born in Ferris township, in 1866, and in Crystal township, on March 19, 1865, respectively, sons of Peter and Mary A. (Kneer) Klees, the former born in Prussia, in 1833, a son of Jacob and Mary (Hess) Klees, the latter born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1841, a daughter of Anthony and Magdalena Kneer.

Peter Klees came to America with his parents when he was nineteen years of age and located at Shelby, Ohio, where they lived for three years, after which they moved to Kiddville, now at Belding, Ionia county, Michigan, making their home there for about one year. The elder Klees and his family in 1856 came to Montcalm county, where he homesteaded eighty acres of land in Ferris township, becoming one of the early pioneers and living among their primitive surroundings until some time later, when Jacob Klees and his wife moved to a farm in section 36, Ferris township, where Mary Klees died in 1880, after which time Jacob Klees made his home with his sons, Peter and Nicholas, for the remainder of his days. Peter Klees was a shoemaker in Germany and also worked at that trade in Ohio and Michigan. About two years after his marriage Peter Klees, in December, 1864, was drafted for service in the Civil War, becoming a soldier of Company I, Sixteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, with which he served as a soldier in the army of General Grant, being present at the surrender of General Lee. Following the Civil War, Peter Klees returned to Montcalm county, Michigan, and secured forty acres of land in section 25, Ferris township, where he spent the remainder of his active life as a farmer, dying in 1911, at the age of seventy-six years.

In 1862, Peter Klees was married to Mary A. Kneer, who came to

America with her parents, Anthony and Magdalena Kneer, in 1851, and located in New York state, where her father, who was an architect and carpenter, followed his business for two years. After this time the family of Anthony Kneer moved to Cleveland, Ohio, then to Detroit, Michigan, later to Lansing, for a time lived at Charlotte, Michigan, and then came to Crystal township, Montcalm county, where a son had homesteaded a farm. Later, Mr. Kneer traded a yolk of oxen to Peter Klees for forty acres of land in Ferris township, where he and his wife spent their last days. Mrs. Klees, the widow of Peter Klees, now lives with her son, Peter A. She is a devout communicant of the Catholic church, as was her husband during the whole of his life.

John and Joseph Klees spent their early days on the home farm, receiving their education in the local schools, afterwards taking up the duties of lumbermen in the woods of the community. Shortly after his marriage in 1889, Joseph Klees purchased a farm of forty acres in section 25, Ferris township, later forty acres in section 26, of the same township, where he engaged in general farming for a time. After the first purchase he and his brother John formed a partnership, in which the brothers acquired equal acreage in both farms. For about six years John and Joseph Klees continued their partnership, afterwards dividing their land in such a way that they received equal parts, since which time they have each been successful farmers on their respective farms. The Klees brothers have well-improved, highly cultivated farms and which are recognized as being among the best in the community.

On November 18, 1895, John Klees was married to Blanche Ward, of Langston county, Michigan, a daughter of Edward and Mary (Hudson) Ward, natives of Canada, who came to Michigan, where Mary Ward, died after which the daughter, Blanche, made her home with the Bellows family, later living with her sister, Mrs. Mary Bellows, of Ferris township, Montcalm county. To the marriage of John and Blanche Klees have been born two children: Hazel Mary, born in November, 1896; and John, born, November 18, 1905. John Klees and his family are members of the Catholic church.

Joseph Klees was married in 1889, to Emma Carney, who was born in Camden, New Jersey, and came to Michigan with her parents, Levi and Sarah Carney. Emma, the wife of Joseph Klees, died in 1910 and in 1912, Mr. Klees was married to Carrie M. Hunt, who was born in North Shade township, Gratiot county, Michigan. Joseph and Carrie Klees are the par-

ents of one son, Joseph Reginald, who was born on May 27, 1914. Carrie, the wife of Joseph Klees is a daughter of Charles and Margaret (Frasier) Hunt, the former born in Pewamo, Ionia county, Michigan, a son of Nehemiah Hunt and wife, the latter born in Scotland, a daughter of John Frasier and wife. Following their marriage at Pewamo, to which community Margaret Frasier had come with her parents in 1854, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt went to North Shade township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and in 1890 came to Ferris township, Montcalm county, where they now live in the town of Crystal. Charles Hunt is a veteran of the Civil War, having served in Company B, Eighth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was a successful farmer in the community during his active days.

John and Joseph Klees are among the highly respected citizens of Montcalm county, the latter having served for some years in various public offices of Ferris township, among which was his occupancy of the office of treasurer for some time and as a school director for fifteen years.

CLARENCE CARIS.

Clarence Caris, of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, has become one of the civic leaders of this community. Although young in the business life of the town, he has made rapid strides toward success, the public being cognizant of his many sterling traits of character and his sincerity of purpose. He was born on January 22, 1892, in Ferris township, this county, and is the son of Michael J. and Alice M. (Hinkle) Caris. Richland township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was the scene of his boyhood and student days, having received his education in the schools of Vestaburg.

Almost immediately following the completion of his schooling, Clarence Caris accepted a position in an automobile shop, in Lansing, Michigan, and continued there for a period of two years, after which he returned to his former home in Vestaburg, Michigan, and became the assistant cashier in the local bank. After discharging his duties in this institution with efficiency for five years, he felt the necessity of enlarging his business interests and with this idea in mind, he purchased the general merchandise store which was formerly owned by G. L. Crawford, and is now active in this line. Apart from his commercial interests, Mr. Caris has been very active in the local political life, being an enthusiastic supporter of the Republican party. He has, under this regime, served as township treasurer for two years and,

needless to say, has won the hearty co-operation of the citizens in his every undertaking.

On August 26, 1915, Clarence Caris was united in marriage to Fay Throop, a native of Ferris township, Montcalm county. She is a daughter of Volney D. and Laura (Perkins) Throop, both natives of Michigan. In the social life of the town, Clarence Caris and his wife are prominent factors, being earnest supporters of every good and worthy cause.

WILLIAM O. WARTS.

William O. Warts is one of the honorable citizens of this locality, a man of sterling worth and upright character. He was born on March 30, 1844, in Schuyler county, New York, and is the son of John P. and Margaret (Demon) Warts. John P. Warts was a native of New York state who located in Dowagiac, Cass county, Michigan, about 1872, later removing to Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, where he remained for many years. He was a life-long farmer and his last years were spent in the pursuit of that vocation in St. Joseph county, of this state, his death occurring in 1902, at the age of more than eighty years. He was twice married and was the father of three children by the first union, namely, Martha Jane, deceased; William O. and Catherine.

William O. Warts spent his boyhood days in New York state where his education was received, and located in Candleville, Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1865. For nearly four years following, he was employed in the lumber camps of this section and then moved to Coral, this county, where he followed farming and lumbering for a period of four years. He then moved to Woods Corners, Ionia county, Michigan, where he remained for two years, thence removing to Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he has since remained. In 1882, Mr. Warts engaged in the milling business, working as foreman for the Schultz and Northern Stave Manufacturing Company for a period of fifteen years. His services were also employed in their stave-mill in St. Louis, Michigan. On January 1, 1864, he enlisted in the Fiftieth New York Volunteer Engineer Corps and served with General Grant until the close of the Civil War, but took no active part in any of the battles.

William O. Warts has been twice married, his first wife being Eliza Jane Ferguson, whom he married on June 27, 1868. She was born on April

28, 1847, in Canada, and was the daughter of Jacob Ferguson and wife. To this union were born three children: Freddie, deceased; John, who married Eva B. Gorsuch and lives in Niagara Falls, New York, where he is employed with a chemical concern, and Mandy, who died in 1896. Eliza Jane (Ferguson) Warts died in 1883. On May 17, 1885, William O. Warts was united in marriage to Mrs. Anna E. (Cummings) Ogden, daughter of William and Lydia (Woodmansee) Cummings, and one child has blessed their union, namely, Eva L., wife of Jesse S. Beach, of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan. They have two children, William J. and Leona May. Anna E. (Cummings-Ogden) Warts had three children by her first marriage: Fred F., who is assistant manager of the Hooker Chemical Works, at Niagara Falls; Charles, deceased, and Calvin A., who married Alice Carahan and is living in Montesand, Washington. They have five children, Ada L., Beatrice, Ralph, Virginia and Margie. Fred F. Ogden married Mary Coombs and they are the parents of two children, Iva C. and Charles F. Anna E. (Cummings-Ogden) Warts was born on May 4, 1852, and is one of seven children born to the union of her parents. Her father died in 1884 and her mother in 1905, both dying in Vestaburg, Michigan.

William O. Warts served his community for some time as constable under the Democratic regime, in which party he has always been very active. He is now employed by the government as mail carrier from the trains to the postoffice, but is retired from other business interests.

FRANK F. CUMMINGS.

Frank F. Cummings, business man and citizen of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, is one of the pioneers of Richland township, where he is well known. He was born on January 6, 1858, in Cattaraugus county, New York, and is the son of William and Lydia (Woodmansee) Cummings, both natives of New York state. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are now living: Amanda, wife of E. Fisher, Beaverton, Gladwin county, Michigan; Anna, wife of William Wartz, Vestaburg, Michigan; Frank F., and Jennie, widow of Governor Greer. She now lives in Vestaburg, Michigan. The parents of this family located in St. Louis, Michigan, in the winter of 1869. For two years William Cummings engaged in teaming, in and around the town of St. Louis, and then followed agricultural pursuits for the next eighteen years at which time he removed to

Vestaburg. He became interested in the hotel business, and operated an hostelry in Vestaburg, Michigan, for about two years. This property was destroyed by fire and he then engaged in the draying business, which he followed until his death in 1884. His birth occurred in 1822. In politics, he was a stanch Democrat and voted that ticket on all issues. His wife was reared in her native state and married there, her death occurring in Vestaburg, Michigan, in 1905.

Frank F. Cummings located in St. Louis, Gratiot county, Michigan, with his parents and was reared and educated in that locality. In 1878, he moved to the town of Vestaburg, Michigan, where he engaged in lumbering in the woods of this section until the timber was cleared. He then became interested in the produce business which he entered in 1897, and which he still follows.

On September 15, 1883, Frank F. Cummings was united in marriage to Mrs. Mary (Hays) Murphy, daughter of John and Dorothy Hays. Mary (Hays-Murphy) Cummings was the mother of one child by her first union, namely, Frank Murphy, principal of the Vestaburg schools. He has taught school since he was eighteen years of age. Frank F. Cummings is a Democrat in his political faith, and finds his fraternal brotherhood in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being past grand of that order. He is also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, having held all chairs and is now past commander of same.

WALTER G. HERRICK.

Walter G. Herrick was born in Bushnell township, this county, on April 4, 1879, and is the son of Nathan and Mary (Daily) Herrick, natives of Washtenaw county, Michigan, who were also well known in Ingham county, where Mr. Herrick passed away in 1901 at the age of sixty-six years. When the subject of this sketch was five years old the Herrick family moved to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, and three years later Mrs. Herrick died. To Nathan and Mary (Daily) Herrick were born seven children: Charles, Adelbert, Rose, James, Dewey, deceased, passed away when eight years of age; Anna and Walter G. Nathan Herrick died in 1901 and his wife in 1887.

After the death of his mother, Walter Herrick was taken into the

home of Charles Waggoner, on the west edge of Bloomer township, where he lived until he was twenty years old. During that time he received the best educational advantages offered by the community in which he lived. After attending the grade schools he entered the Palo high school and later attended school at Carson City. For the two years after he left school he followed the occupation of farming and during that time became interested in the Herrick Casket Company of Lyons, for whom he worked six years. At the end of that time he bought forty acres of land near Butternut, where he followed farming for a year. After spending three years on the farm owned by his brother in Bushnell township, he bought a farm located two and one-half miles southwest of Carson City, and containing two hundred and forty acres of well-improved land. Since taking up his residence on this place in 1910, Mr. Herrick has used every effort to make the farm represent modern ideas of improvement.

On September 2, 1903, Walter Herrick was united in marriage to Lany R. Croel, the daughter of William and Emeline (Way) Croel, and a native of Ionia township, Ionia county, Michigan. William Croel, who was born near Akron, New York, came to Fenton, Michigan, with his parents, Silas and Ruth (Saxon) Croel, when a small boy. He remained on the farm with his parents until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he left to enlist in the Fifth Michigan Cavalry. During his three years of service in the war his parents moved to Ionia county, Michigan, where they bought a farm, and William Croel bought a farm in Ionia while in the army.

After returning home Mr. Croel followed the occupation of a farmer, and is still living near Lyons. He always has held a place of high esteem in the community in which he lived and became widely known through his services to the county as highway commissioner. To William Croel and wife were born five children, Claude, William, Lany, Winifred and Lawrence. Mrs. Herrick's parents are still living. Mrs. Herrick lived with her parents until her marriage to Mr. Herrick. After completing the course in the high school at Lyons, she attended the normal school at Mount Pleasant, where she qualified for the profession of teaching, which she followed for two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Herrick are the parents of two children, Mary Emeline, born on August 15, 1908, and Mildred Winifred, born on March 2, 1913. The members of the family attend the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Herrick takes an interest in the affairs of the Maccabees Lodge, with which he is prominently affiliated.

CYRENIUS C. SAYLES, M. D.

Cyrenius C. Sayles, physician, citizen and Civil War veteran, of Langston, Montcalm county, Michigan, stands high in the respect and esteem of the community in which he resides as well as in his chosen profession. His birth occurred on October 25, 1839, in Ontario, Canada, and he is the son of Cyrenius and Eliza (Gardner) Sayles, natives of New York and Canada, respectively.

Cyrenius Sales, Sr., went to Canada with his father when a very small child, removing to Ionia county, Michigan, on April 30, 1844. They camped on the site of the present court house. Ahab Sayles, father of Cyrenius Sayles, Sr., was a native of New York state, having been born in Cayuga county. The Sayles family originally came from the Isle of Man. Eliza (Gardner) Sayles was of Mohawk-Dutch descent.

Cyrenius C. Sayles remained in Ionia county, Michigan, until 1869, and attended school until his eighteenth year. On August 7, 1861, he went from his home in the town of Kaane, Ionia county, Michigan, to Ionia, for the purpose of enlisting in the Union army. He was mustered into Company B, Sixteenth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, under Col. T. B. W. Stockton, serving until December 23, 1863, at which time he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment and saw service until his discharge on July 8, 1865, at Jeffersonville, Indiana. On June 18, 1864, at Spottsylvania Court House, he was wounded in the head by a glancing rifle ball, but it proved to be nothing serious and he was soon back in service. He fought in fifty-four battles, not counting the skirmishes. After returning from the war, he again took up his studies in Miss Jennings' school, in Lowell, Michigan, and in the high school there. In 1869, he removed to Detroit, Michigan, where he studied in the O'Brien-Stockton Commercial School after which he accepted a position in Hunt & Hunter's Drug Store, and while there conceived the idea of becoming a physician. In 1876 he matriculated at Ann Arbor University, where he studied for two terms and then removed to Langston, Michigan, to practice. This was in March, 1879, and he continued here until 1885, when he went to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he took a course in the Indiana Eclectic Medical College, graduating with the class of 1887. He then returned to Langston, Michigan, where he has continued to practice ever since. He has always been very active in the affairs of the community, and is a member of the local Grange and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners.

On May 2, 1879, Cyrenius C. Sayles was united in marriage to Maggie



DR. AND MRS. CYRENIUS C. SAYLES.

J. Moye, daughter of Samuel and Mary A. (Myers) Moye, and two children were born of their union: Lee R. and Mabel I. Lee R. married Emma Peterson, who was born in Langston, Michigan, and they are the parents of four children, Cyril C., Anna M., Edna M. and Rex. Mabel I. became the wife of William Force and they have one child, Mary M. Maggie J. (Moye) Sayles was born on October 1, 1847, in Kent county, Michigan, and died on December 9, 1889. On June 16, 1902, Dr. Cyrenius C. Sayles was married to Mrs. Ella (Hinkley) Brown, widow of C. H. Brown, who had one child by her first husband, George Patten. This child was by name Letha H. Patten, who grew to maturity and married Robert A. Bannen, but is now deceased.

JOHN F. THURLBY.

John F. Thurlby is one of the early pioneers of this section, his eldest child having been the first white child born in Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan. A large stump in the yard of his home marks the spot from which he felled a tree in 1872. His birth occurred on May 13, 1847, in Lincolnshire, England, and is the son of William and Mary Ann (Milburn) Thurlby. William Thurlby was born and reared in England, receiving his education in Lincolnshire. He was a brick mason by trade, but discontinued that to engage in the liquor business, following his immigration to America. William and Mary Ann (Milburn) Thurlby were married prior to their removal to the United States, their son, John F., being eight years of age at the time. They located in Stark county, Ohio, but later moved to Saginaw county, Michigan, where they located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, eight miles from the town of Saginaw. It was here that the death of William Thurlby occurred, in 1861, at the age of forty-seven years, his birth having occurred in 1814. During his life in America he had been an active Republican and a sincere worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, himself and wife both having been members of this denomination. Mary Ann (Milburn) Thurlby was a schoolmate of the man who became her husband, their marriage being the culmination of a childhood romance. She was born in 1814 and her death occurred in 1893. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are now living: John F., Agnes, wife of James McGlone, of Saginaw, Michigan; Parthena, wife of Samuel Dopp, of Detroit, Michigan, and William, of Bad Ax, Michigan, where he is engaged in the operation of a hotel.

John F. Thurlby was reared on his father's farm in Saginaw county, Michigan, and received his education in the nearby schools. He remained on the home farm until the death of his father, at which time he moved with his mother and her family to Midland township, Midland county, Michigan. For three years he was employed in the local saw-mill, but discontinued this to engage in farming, which he followed for four years after his marriage.

On December 8, 1868, John F. Thurlby and Sarah Sharp, daughter of Andrew G. and Levina Sharp, were united in marriage and to them were born five children, all of whom are deceased. The names of these children are as follows: William, Fanny, Charles, Mary and Edwin. Sarah (Sharp) Thurlby was born on December 5, 1852, in Allen county, Ohio. In 1872, John F. Thurlby and his family moved to the town of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, where they still reside, and for seventeen years following he was employed in the lumber woods of this immediate section. Following his four years of service as postmaster of the town he engaged in the grocery and general merchandise, in which business he is still active. On January 30, 1907, the local and long-distance Bell telephone system was installed in the town and the switchboard placed in Mr. Thurlby's store. Politically, he is an active Democrat and held the office of township clerk for one year. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which order he has held all offices, and also a member of the Knights of the Maccabees.

MARSHALL A. ST. CLAIR.

The late Marshall A. St. Clair was born on the farm now occupied by Jay Miner, in Bloomer township, Montcalm county, on September 28, 1855. He was the son of William Wallace and Elvira D. (Miner) St. Clair, the former of whom was born on June 29, 1833, in the state of New York. The father of the subject of this sketch came to Michigan in childhood, with his parents, who settled in Jackson county. William Wallace St. Clair came to Montcalm county during the fifties, and experienced the hardships of a pioneer farmer. Before his death he bought a farm in the north side of section 28, located in Bloomer township, where he resided. Mr. St. Clair was a veteran of the Civil War, having served the Union for three years. He was in fourteen battles during the war and at one time was taken prisoner. After the war he returned to Montcalm county, where he was united

in marriage to Elvira Miner, the daughter of Anderson Miner, one of the first settlers in Bloomer township. Mrs. St. Clair taught the first school in Bloomer township. She became the mother of the following children: Marshall, Boyd, Eva and Roy. After her death, which occurred in 1884, Mr. St. Clair was married to Mrs. Jane (Davis) Miner, the widow of Adams Miner, and a native of Montreal, Canada, who died in 1914. Mr. St. Clair passed away in the same year.

The subject of this sketch, who had followed the occupation of a farmer, was employed for thirteen years at Belding. In 1879 he was united in marriage to Sarah Cliffe, the daughter of Thomas J. Cliffe, of whom an account is given elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. St. Clair, who was reared near Bloomer Center, attended school at Carson City and at the age of fourteen began teaching school, an occupation she followed for eight years. Since the death of her husband, who passed away on August 27, 1913, she has made her home with her parents, whom she cares for owing to their advanced age.

Marshall St. Clair was prominent in fraternal affairs, having been a member of the Odd Fellows and the Grange. He attended the Methodist church for many years.

JOSEPH C. HILLIS.

Of those farmers who have been especially successful in their agricultural pursuits and who, as citizens, have taken an important place in the official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, one of the best known is Joseph C. Hillis, who was born in Simcoe county, Ontario, Canada, a son of Hugh C. and Margaret (Boyd) Hillis, a review of whose lives appears in this volume under the name of George Thomas Hillis.

Joseph C. Hillis, after spending the first seventeen years of his life in his native county, came with his parents, in October, 1887, to Montcalm county, Michigan, living at Westville for a time, then moving to a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, which he rented for about one year. He then located on a farm of eighty acres which he secured from his father, which land Mr. Hillis has greatly improved and on which he lives now as a successful farmer and raiser of Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs, all high grade stock.

Joseph C. Hillis was married to Alice Porter on December 31, 1895, and to this marriage has been born one son, Laverne, who was born on

April 19, 1897, he now living at home after completing his course of study at the Stanton high school from which he was graduated in 1914.

Mrs. Hillis is a daughter of Edwin and Adelia (Reynolds) Porter, the former born on June 27, 1845, in Summit county, Ohio, a son of Orange and Mary (Daniels) Porter, natives of Vermont and New Hampshire, respectively, the latter born in Branch county, Michigan, a daughter of Chauncey and Tryphena (Tuttle) Reynolds. Edwin Porter moved, when two years of age, with his parents to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he was educated and where he lived until October, 1862. At that time Mr. Porter enlisted in Battery F, First Michigan Artillery, serving in the Civil War until July, 1865, during which time he had a part in the campaign in Kentucky, in 1863, was with General Sherman as far as Atlanta, Georgia, and after his release from captivity as a prisoner of war became a part of the army of General Thomas, at Nashville, after which Mr. Porter again was assigned to the army of General Sherman, at Goldsboro, North Carolina, for the remainder of his term of service.

After the close of the Civil War, Edwin Porter returned to his home in Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he was married on October 18, 1869, to Adelia Reynolds, a marriage to which were born three children: Nellie, the wife of Harvey Hancock, a farmer of Day township, Montcalm county, they being the parents of six children: Alice, wife of Joseph Hillis, and Thomas, a farmer of Douglass township, this county, who married Lillian Kebler, they being the parents of four children, Vida, Vera, Hazel and Herbert.

During the year 1897, Adelia, the wife of Edwin Porter, died, and on May 24, 1900, Mr. Porter was married, secondly, to Myra Nichols, who was born in Muskegon county, Michigan, a daughter of Henry M. and Ellen Lucetta (Barber) Nichols. To the marriage of Edwin and Myra Porter have been born three children: Alta, Edwin, Jr., and Lillian.

Edwin Porter, in 1869, moved from his home in Hillsdale county, to Sidney township, Montcalm county, where he bought forty acres of land and lived as a farmer on this place until 1883, when he moved to Douglass township, this county, and purchased eighty acres of land which now he and a son cultivate, jointly. Edwin Porter is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of the Maccabees, and the Grange. Mr. Porter, for four years, was justice of the peace, for one term was township treasurer, was highway commissioner for two years, and for twenty-four years, successively, Edwin Porter was a supervisor until 1913. In politics, Mr. Porter is a Republican.

Joseph C. Hillis has been active in the official and political life of Douglass township and Montcalm county for many years, during which time he has served as highway commissioner, as township treasurer and as county drain commissioner. Mr. Hillis recently conducted an active campaign for the office of sheriff of Montcalm county. Joseph C. Hillis is a Republican.

Fraternally, Mr. Hillis is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having served as chaplain of the blue lodge and also as junior deacon at Stanton. He is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and of the Montcalm county Grange.

CHARLES ODELL SHERWOOD.

Charles Odell Sherwood, who is numbered among the enterprising business men of this county, was born on April 16, 1862, in Pine River township, Gratiot county, Michigan, and is the son of Malcolm M. and Catherine (Cummings) Sherwood, both natives of New York state. Malcolm M. Sherwood was born on May 16, 1823, in Dairyen, Genesee county, New York, and received his education there. Catherine (Cummings) Sherwood was born on April 11, 1836, near Little Valley, Cattaraugus county, New York, and her marriage was solemnized in this state. Together they moved to Michigan, in 1855, locating between the towns of St. Louis and Alma. At that time only two log huts marked the site of St. Louis, Michigan, and this place became their home for eight years. For the eighteen years following, they lived in Clinton county, Michigan, then for a short time in Maple Rapids and thence to North Shade township, Gratiot county, Michigan, where they remained until death. His death occurred on July 14, 1903. She died on August 14, 1889. They were married in 1852, and three children were born of their union: Eugenia, deceased; Albert, deceased, and Charles Odell.

Charles Odell Sherwood was but one year of age when his parents located in Clinton county, Michigan, where he was reared and educated, his initial schooling having been received in the district schools, near the town of Huber, while his graduation was from the high school in Maple Rapids, Michigan. He was reared as a farmer and engaged in this vocation immediately following his student days. His first independent venture in the agricultural line was on forty acres of land near Carson City, Michigan, where he remained for ten years. In January, 1906, he located on a place near the town of Vestaburg, of this county, and continued here for four

years. He had learned the trade of bricklayer while a resident of Clinton county, Michigan, and resumed this trade after removing to this section, having extended his business interests to contracting as well. He contracted and built the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building in Edmore, and the Wilson Drug Store, Edmore, Michigan, also the Vestaburg high school, of Vestaburg, Michigan, and now takes contracting over the entire county.

Politically, Mr. Odell is an active Republican, and has served as township supervisor of Richland township, this county, also as justice of the peace for six terms, although not active at present in the last-named office. On June 11, 1905, Charles Odell Sherwood was united in marriage to Bertha M. Norton, of Fulton township, Gratiot county, Michigan. She is the daughter of Andrew J. and Florette (Panny) Norton. Mr. and Mrs. Odell live in Vestaburg.

JOHN N. CLEMENT.

John N. Clement, prosperous farmer and highly respected citizen of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where for many years he has taken an important part in the official and public life of the community, was born in Wentworth county, Ontario, Canada, on December 18, 1859, a son of James and Mary (Blasdell) Clement.

James Clement was born in Devonshire, England, in February, 1816, a son of William Clement and wife, natives of England, the latter of whom died in the early sixties, after which William Clement again married, and with his family came to America, and located in Wentworth county, Ontario, Canada, about the year 1832. There William Clement entered land where he lived as a general farmer, later retiring and spending his last days on that place.

James Clement, during the year 1881, left his home in Canada, and came to Montcalm county, Michigan, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Douglass township, which place he cultivated for some years and then disposing of his land to his children, he lived on the place with his son, John, for the remainder of his days, dying in November, 1906, at the time of his death being nearly ninety-one years of age.

About 1840, James Clement was married to Mary Blasdell, who was born in Canada, a daughter of Isaac Blasdell and wife, and who was born and grew to maturity in Wentworth county, Canada, living near her birth-place until the time of her marriage. James and Mary Clement were the

parents of six children: Eliza Jane, who now is Mrs. Devereaux, of Henor, Michigan; Cynthia, who died at the age of twelve years; Mary Ann, who died at the age of four years; James Burness, a farmer living near Greenville, Montcalm county; John N., and Mary Elizabeth, who now is Mrs. Almy, of Belvidere township, this county. Mrs. Mary Clement died in February, 1913. James Clement was a member and a local preacher of the Methodist church, Mrs. Clement also having been an active worker in this church.

John N. Clement, after the completion of his education, received in the public schools of Wentworth county, lived in Canada until twenty-one years of age, when he came with his parents to Montcalm county, Michigan, and lived on the home place until after his marriage, when he became a farmer of the community, later securing the home place, where he since has been engaged in general agricultural pursuits, cultivating two hundred acres of land.

During the month of August, 1886, John N. Clement was married to Margaret Aldrich, a school teacher, who was born in Douglass township, Montcalm county, a daughter of Stephen and Rebecca (Stewart) Aldrich. To the marriage of John N. and Margaret Clement have been born four children: Mabel, who died at the age of fifteen years; Myron N. and Hazel, who live at home, and Clarence, who died in infancy.

Stephen Aldrich, father of Mrs. Margaret (Aldrich) Clement, was born in Connecticut. When a young man he went to New York and located near Rochester, later moving to Coldwater, Michigan, where he was married to Rebecca Stewart. Rebecca Stewart was born in Ireland, of Scotch parentage, and was four years old when her family came to this country and located first in New York state and later moved to Michigan. Rebecca Stewart was first married to Harris Aldrich, a brother of Stephen, and to this marriage were born two children, Elizabeth and Thomas. Stephen Aldrich and Rebecca Stewart were married in 1854 and came to Montcalm county, settling in what is now Douglass township, the name of which was selected by Mrs. Rebecca Aldrich. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Aldrich were the parents of two children, Agnes and Margaret. Agnes Aldrich married Oscar Kilborn and lives in Sacramento, California. During the Civil War Stephen Aldrich enlisted in the Union army in September, 1862, and served three years. He was a well-known farmer of this county. Mrs. Aldrich was a member of the Methodist church.

John N. Clement is a man well known in the public life of Douglass

township, Montcalm county, having served on the school board for fifteen years. Mr. Clement is a Republican. John N. Clement is perhaps best known throughout Douglass township and the vicinity for his activity and interest in the affairs of the Methodist church of the community. Mr. Clement and his family for many years having been recognized leaders in the work and worship of this denomination, of which Mrs. Clement was a member of the first church. Since the organization of the local church Mr. Clement has served in various offices, among which has been that of steward and trustee of the official board, as well as having served as a Sunday school teacher for many years and his son, Myron, is superintendent of the Sunday school, which office he now is occupying for a third term. Hazel Clement serves as the church organist.

John N. Clement and his family are among the honored people of Douglass township, Montcalm county, their unselfish lives and their interest in all progressive measures having won for them a place of prominence among the leaders of the community.

LEON L. HINKLEY.

Leon L. Hinkley, who has served as township clerk of Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, for the past sixteen years, was born on May 23, 1869, in Commerce township, Oakland county, Michigan, and is the son of Hiram R. and Roxana (Voorhier) Hinkley. Hiram R. Hinkley was born in New York and moved to Michigan with his parents when very young, and was reared and educated in this state. Roxana Voorhier was a native of Canada and also came to Michigan when very young, receiving her education in this state. They were married in Genesee county, Michigan, from which they moved to Kent county, Michigan, in 1874, and in 1883 located in Montcalm county, Michigan, where they remained until their deaths. Their home was established in the town of Langston, Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan.

Leon L. Hinkley received his education in the district schools of Kent county, Michigan, and, when quite a young boy, accepted a position as clerk in a store in the town of Oakfield, Michigan, working in the summer and attending school in the winter. In September, 1884, he became a clerk in the store of Fred D. Briggs, in Langston, Michigan, continuing until 1909. He then purchased a farm in section 23, Pine township, Montcalm county,

Michigan, where he resided until the spring of 1913, at which time he returned to Langston, Michigan, and again took up the duties as manager of the store where he had formerly worked as a clerk. Since assuming the management of this store, the business has been known as the general merchandise store of Leon L. Hinkley.

In September, 1891, in Montcalm county, Michigan, Leon L. Hinkley and Bercie S. Frank were united in marriage and of this union nine children have been born: Elva, who married Herbie Hanson; Donald, who married Carrie Keilholtz, and they have one child, Bercie; Fay, wife of John Sorrensen, has one child, Lorrain; Bina, who married Lloyd Ball; Claude, Viva, Reva, Eva and Merle. Bercie S. (Frank) Hinkley was born on September 17, 1871, in Montcalm township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Hattie (Hill) Frank, who were natives of New York state and Michigan, respectively, and located in Montcalm county about 1865.

Fraternally, Leon L. Hinkley is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and of the American Fraternity of Stars. His political faith is with the Democratic party, and he was elected in 1896 to fill the office of township clerk, in which he continued until 1912.

LEWIS NAPOLEON LEE.

Lewis Napoleon Lee, successful farmer and citizen prominent in the public life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on June 26, 1860, in Beverly township, Wentworth county, Ontario, Canada, a son of James Bruce and Eliza (Welch) Lee, natives of Canada, the former born near Troy, on September 17, 1841, a son of Peter and Rebecca (Shafer) Lee, and the latter a daughter of William Shafer and wife.

James Bruce Lee was reared on the home farm in Canada, and was educated in the public schools of his native community, after which he worked as a farmer with his father, at a later time taking up the trade of a carpenter. James B. Lee was married on May 24, 1858, to Eliza Welch and seven years later, in 1865, they moved to Michigan, and settled on a farm of eighty acres located in Douglass township, which land the elder Lee obtained in trade for an old horse. Mr. Lee cleared his land, added the necessary improvements and engaged in general farming, also working at his trade, building many houses and buildings throughout this locality.

As a citizen, James Bruce Lee was especially active, having served as township supervisor, township treasurer, township clerk, highway commissioner and for about twenty years was a member of the school board. In politics, Mr. Lee was a Republican. Mr. Lee was a well-known member and worker of the United Brethren church, having served as superintendent of the Sunday school, his wife also having been an active worker of this denomination.

James Bruce and Eliza Lee were the parents of nine children: Josiah; Lewis Napoleon; Druzilla, the wife of Jeremiah A. Bennett, of Douglass township; George A., who died on July 26, 1911; Matilda, the wife of Charles Hawkins, of Ferris township, Montcalm county; Otis, who lives in Richland township, Ionia county; William R., of Douglass township; Phoebe, who died on December 28, 1913, and Harvey, of Entrican, Douglass township, Montcalm county.

Lewis Napoleon Lee, after his school days, became a farmer on the home place where he lived until after his marriage and then rented a farm for one year, later purchasing his present farm, which he has improved and where he now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On December 25, 1881, Lewis Napoleon Lee was married to Margaret McClean, who was born near Hamilton, Canada, on March 13, 1861. To the marriage of Lewis Napoleon and Margaret Lee have been born six children: Mildred, born on August 1, 1883, and married to A. M. Frederick, assistant manager of the Alma Produce Company, of Alma, Michigan, they being the parents of three children, L. G., Harry and Veatarice; Hattie, August 8, 1885, now the wife of Roy M. Hunt, of Douglass township, they being the parents of six children, Theresa, Wilma, Orval B., Letha, Leslie and Mildred; Lloyd, June 26, 1887, now living in the West with a view to improving his health; Stanley, December 29, 1889, who married Ida Sorenson, a daughter of Christ Sorenson and wife; Archie, December 20, 1893, and Glenn, July 29, 1896, the latter two living at home.

Mrs. Lee is a daughter of Elind and Sophia (Blaisdell) McClean, the former born near Hamilton, Canada, on April 15, 1819, a son of William and Jennie (McGaw) McClean, and the latter born in the same locality, a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Cope) Blaisdell. William McClean was a native of New York state, born of Scotch descent and a veteran of the Revolutionary War, his wife, Jennie, was born in Pennsylvania of Scotch and Irish descent. Isaac Blaisdell was a native of Canada, and his wife of New Jersey, she having moved to Canada with her parents.

Elind McClean grew to maturity and was educated in Canada, and there was married to Sophia Blaisdell, as a result of this marriage the following children having been born: Oscar, Amanda and Margaret. Following his marriage, Elind McClean moved to St. Joseph county, Indiana, where he lived for two years and then came to Montcalm county, settling on an unimproved farm in Douglass township, which place he prepared for cultivation and lived there as a general farmer for a short time. After some years as an invalid, Elind McClean died on October 6, 1898; his widow died on August 20, 1906.

Lewis Napoleon Lee has taken an active part in the political and official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, having served as clerk of the township for one term, as treasurer for two terms and for twenty years Mr. Lee has been a member of the school board. In politics, Mr. Lee is a Republican. Mr. Lee is a member of Wesleyan Methodist church and has been prominent in the affairs of the church for many years, at one time having served as superintendent of the Sunday school, as a Sunday school teacher and also was a member of the board of trustees. Mrs. Lee also is a member of the Methodist church at Entrican.

Fraternally, Lewis Napoleon Lee is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Entrican, and is a prominent member of the Montcalm county Grange.

MORTIMER A. HUNT.

Mortimer A. Hunt, successful farmer and a citizen who has been active in the public and official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he is one of the highly respected men of the community, was born in Douglass township, this county, on July 21, 1881, a son of John Bruce and Edna Jane (Sullivan) Hunt, the former born in Beverly township, Wentworth county, Ontario, Canada, on June 18, 1848, a son of Arnold and Sarah (Cope) Hunt; the latter born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, on December 25, 1844.

Arnold Hunt, a native of New York state, worked in the woolen mills of his community until after his marriage to Sarah Cope, of New York state, a daughter of Conrad Cope and wife. Mr. Hunt then moved to Canada and located in Wentworth county, where he lived for the remainder of his days.

John Bruce Hunt, father of the subject of this sketch, lived at his Canadian home until 1867, when he came to Montcalm county, Michigan, and for two years was employed in the lumber camps and later, in Fair-plain township, he was employed in "logging" on the Flat river. Mr. Hunt then became a bridge builder on the Chicago & West Michigan and the Detroit & Milwaukee railways, which work he followed for nine years, after which he went to the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and for the next two years was engaged in street car construction work. He then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he was employed at the headquarters of the Chicago & West Michigan Railway Company, until some time later, when John Bruce Hunt moved to Douglass township, Montcalm county, and located on a farm of eighty acres, which he purchased. His farm being heavily wooded, Mr. Hunt proceeded to clear the land and added improvements from time to time until now he is the owner and cultivator of one of the most desirable farms of the community. In addition to his general agricultural pursuits, John Bruce Hunt operates a hay-baling machine and annually bales thousands of tons of hay.

John Bruce Hunt was married, in 1877, to Edna Jane Sullivan and to this marriage was born one son, Mortimer A. The elder Hunt is an active and loyal Republican, and while he has not aspired to public office he is recognized as one of the leading citizens and political workers of his community. Edna Jane, the wife of John Bruce Hunt, died in June, 1906.

Mortimer A. Hunt received his education in the public schools of Douglass township, after which he became a farmer, living on the home place, where now, together with his father, he has been peculiarly successful as a farmer and where he is conceded a place among the leaders of agricultural life.

On December 15, 1909, Mortimer A. Hunt was married to M. Lena Hansen, of Sidney, Montcalm county, a daughter of Jerry and Katherine (Dam) Hansen, natives of Schleswig, Holstein. To the marriage of Mortimer A. and M. Lena Hunt have been born two children: Eldon Bruce, who was born on November 26, 1910, and Kathryn Edna, born on April 1, 1915. Mrs. Hunt is a member of the Methodist church.

Not only is Mortimer A. Hunt a leading farmer of the community, but as a citizen and as treasurer of Douglass township he has demonstrated his value to the locality, as is evidenced by his efficient service in the second year of his occupancy of the office which he now serves to the satisfaction of his constituency. Politically, Mr. Hunt is a Republican. Mortimer A.

Hunt is prominent in the fraternal life of Montcalm county, he now being a member and noble grand of Entrican Lodge No. 43, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he is a well-known member of the Knights of the Macca-bees, at Entrican.

CHARLES R. HERRICK.

Charles R. Herrick is a native of Michigan, having been born in Ingham county in 1858. He is the son of Nathan and Mary Jane (Dailey) Herrick, both of whom were born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, in Salem township. Nathan Herrick, who was born in 1836, was reared in the county in which he was born and after his marriage moved to Ingham county where he and his wife remained only a short time. They returned to Salem township where they lived until 1875, when they came to Montcalm county and settled in Bushnell township. After four years spent in the place just mentioned, Mr. Herrick bought a farm on the edge of Bloomer township, in the same county, where his wife died in September, 1888, at the age of fifty-two years. After the death of his first wife Mr. Herrick was married to Mrs. Catherine King, a widow, who returned with her husband to Ingham county, where he passed away on March 11, 1902.

In 1878 the subject of this sketch began to farm in Bushnell township, on a tract of land belonging to his father-in-law. He remained at this occupation for three years and at the end of that time engaged in the mercantile business at Fenwick, which proved successful and which held the interest of Mr. Herrick for seven years. He returned to farming and bought a farm on the east side of Bushnell township. This place was later sold and then Mr. Herrick bought a farm near the land owned by his wife in Bloomer township. On this tract of one hundred and ninety-two acres Mr. Herrick has farmed for seven years during the summer months, and in the winter has gone to the South. The subject of this sketch has also been interested in the Belding Casket Company, for which firm he traveled ten years.

The marriage of Charles R. Herrick to Ella D. Clock, the daughter of James and Almeda (Bump) Clock, took place in 1878. James A. Clock, who was born in New Canaan, Connecticut, on September 26, 1831, left the place of his nativity when still a youth and moved with his parents to Salem, Washington county, Michigan, in 1848. With all the household possessions loaded on a lumber wagon which was drawn by a team of oxen,

the family entered the wilderness, as they journeyed on cutting a trail through the underbrush and timber. The sons of the family, who had been used to receiving little more than a shilling a day for work, were not long in this new country in saving eighty dollars with which they purchased a grant of land for a permanent home. In 1855, James A. Clock was united in marriage to Almeda Bump, who passed away in 1878. The couple had two children, one of whom died in infancy and the other became Mrs. Herrick. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Clock married Dora Miller who became the mother of a daughter, Jessie, who married a Mr. Whitmore. Mr. Clock was a devout member of the United Brethren church and lived up to the highest principles of Christianity which he exemplified in the struggles incident to pioneer life. He passed away on August 10, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Herrick have become the parents of two children, Pearl, who became the wife of Floyd Upton, of Lyons, and Mabel, who married Bert Carpenter. Mrs. Carpenter has one daughter, Ruth. The subject of this sketch is a member of the Methodist church and has always manifested a deep interest in affairs that pertain to the welfare of the community in which he lives.

CLARENCE M. GATES.

Clarence M. Gates, farmer and stock raiser, was born on November 26, 1879, in Schoharie county, New York, and is the son of Edmund and Anna M. (Leonard) Gates. The father of the subject of this sketch, who was born on March 25, 1833, is a native of New York state and was the son of John Edmund Gates, of German extraction. Anna Leonard Gates was the daughter of Robert and Margaret (Berthic) Leonard, of noble Scotch lineage. She was born in Franklington, Schoharie county, New York, where she was married to Edmund Gates on May 15, 1858.

The parents of Clarence Gates settled on a farm in New York after their marriage, and when the subject of this sketch was still a small child moved to Kansas, where they lived for three years in Ness county. Mr. Gates had a homestead claim and a tract of timber land in Kansas. After selling the place he moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, where in Maple Valley township he became identified with the lumber interests of that locality. The family then moved to Pierson township, where they lived only a short while before moving to Reynolds township. In the place just

mentioned Edmund Gates bought a farm consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, located in the western part of the township. On this place he lived for twenty-two years. At the end of that time he moved to the farm just east of the residence now occupied by Clarence M., which he later sold. The last farm on which he lived was smaller than his former farms, extending over just forty acres of land. The couple reared a large family, seven of whom grew to maturity and six of whom are still living. Leonard passed away after he had reached the age of manhood; John E. resides in Howard City, Michigan; Minnie, who became the wife of Henry Holmes, is a resident of Ensley township, Newage county, Michigan; Burton is living at Grand Lodge, Eton county, Michigan; Claudia, who became the wife of James B. Hubbard, lives in Portland, Oregon; Clarence is the subject of this sketch, and Frank L. and Mabel, his wife, reside in Portland, Oregon. The following children died when small: Ward, Millie, Ora and Maggie. Mrs. Gates died on December 18, 1894, and her husband passed away on July 5, 1902. Mr. Gates lived up to the highest ideals of citizenship and exemplified in all his dealings the most admirable traits of the race from which he sprung.

Clarence Gates received his elementary education in the common schools of Montcalm county and until he was twenty-one years of age assisted his father in the work upon the farm. He then went to the northern part of the state where for three years he was employed in a handle factory. At the time of his father's death he returned home and took charge of the farm, assuming the entire management. Since that time he has worked unceasingly for the interests of agriculture in the community and has attained a high place in public confidence and esteem because of his ability in handling rural problems and his aptitude for hard labor. The farm now occupied by Mr. Gates extends over fifty acres of land located in section 36, Reynolds township, Montcalm county, and is kept in an excellent state of cultivation. Mr. Gates, while interested in the lines of general farming, gives a large part of his attention to stock raising, which has proved a very profitable form of work. Mr. Gates bought the farm he now occupies two years after the death of his father, after he had sold the old home farm.

The marriage of Clarence H. Gates to Ida Brown, the daughter of Oliver Brown and a native of Maple Valley township, Montcalm county, took place on August 9, 1903. To this union the following children have been born: Edmund Oliver, Louise, who died in infancy; Ruth May, Cecil B. and Noreen.

In the political affairs of the community in which he resides, Mr. Gates takes an active part. He is prominent in the movements of the Republican party, and although he has never given public expression to the fact, is deeply in sympathy with the Prohibition cause. He is now serving his second term as township supervisor, an office which has gained for him wide popularity. In religious affairs he is a member of the Free Methodist district church, at Howard City, Michigan.

DELBERT MAYES.

Delbert Mayes, one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Crystal township, this county, a director of the Merchants State Bank of Carson City and a prominent dealer in live stock, is a native of Michigan, having been born near the town of Palo, in the neighboring county of Ionia, this state, on September 26, 1869, son of Walter and Rachel (Weaver) Mayes, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Ohio.

Walter Mayes was born in Delaware county, New York, and there grew to manhood. When he was about twenty-one years of age he came to Michigan, and settled in Ionia county, where he presently married and began farming on his own account. He bought a timber tract there, ten acres of which had been "girdled," and there he entered upon the arduous task of clearing the same and bringing it to a condition fit for cultivation. He was a man of large frame, rugged and robust, and was accustomed, during the heat of the summer to work all day at mere "man" work and then work at night with his oxen in the clearing, thus sparing his stock the heat of the day. About 1879 Walter Mayes came to Montcalm county and bought a quarter of a section of timber land in Crystal township, the place on which his son, Delbert Mayes, now lives, and there he spent the rest of his life, becoming one of the best known farmers in that part of the county, both he and his wife taking a prominent part in the development of a proper social order thereabout. Before his death Walter Mayes succeeded in clearing and bringing under cultivation about one hundred acres of his quarter section. He also bought eighty acres adjoining the same on the south and was accounted a well-to-do citizen. He and his wife were members of the Free-Will Baptist church and their children were reared in that faith. Eight children were born to them, five of whom are still living, two having died in infancy and Blaine on March 13, 1911, the others being, Nela, who lives in



DELBERT MAYES.



MRS. NETTIE MAYES.

Eugene, Oregon; Wilbur, who lives in Seattle, Washington; John, who lives at Crystal, this county; Matthew, who lives in Crystal township, this county, and Delbert, the subject of this sketch, who lives on the old home farm. The mother of these children died in 1895. Before her marriage she was Rachel Weaver, and was born in Ohio, daughter of John and Amelia Weaver, who were among the earliest settlers in the southwest part of Bloomer township, this county, having located in the timber wilderness there in the fifties, cleared a tract for a home and there spent the remainder of their lives, taking an active part in all the early work of that community. Walter Mayes died on November 29, 1898.

Delbert Mayes grew up on the old home place and has lived there ever since. In March, 1889, soon after his father's death, he married Nettie Knapp, who was born in North Plains township, Ionia county, this state, daughter of Zephaniah D. and Almina (Sebring) Knapp, the former of whom is a native of Ohio and the latter of this state. Z. D. Knapp was born in Medina county, Ohio, in 1844, son of Charles and Alvira (Judson) Knapp, who came to Montcalm county in the early fifties and became pioneers of Bloomer township, a narrative of whose experiences is set out in the biographical sketch of A. N. Knapp, presented elsewhere in this volume. Z. D. Knapp grew up on his father's farm in Bloomer township and in 1873 moved to a farm in the northwest part of section 29, in Bloomer township, where he has lived most of the time ever since, a life-long and industrious farmer. He married Almina Sebring, who was born in Jackson county, this state, in 1848, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Howe) Sebring, who came to this county in 1849, settling at Bloomer Center and were among the first, if not the very first, settlers of that place. The mother died when the daughter, Almina, was six years old and was the first person buried in the cemetery at Bloomer Center. The daughter, Almina, continued to live there until she was married. Her death occurred in December, 1891. Nettie Knapp grew up on her father's farm at Bloomer Center and for about six years before her marriage to Mr. Mayes was the owner of a dress-making establishment at Carson City.

After his marriage Mr. Mayes continued to make his home at the old home place. He bought the interest of the other heirs in the original quarter section of the home farm and six years later bought the eighty adjoining the same on the south. In 1900 he bought an additional tract of one hundred and ninety acres and now is the owner of four hundred and thirty acres of excellent land in Crystal township, being regarded as one of the leading

farmers thereabout. He is progressive in his methods, an instance of which is noted in the fact that the first corn-binder ever brought to this county was put in operation on his place. In addition to his general farming operations, Mr. Mayes give considerable attention to dairying and stock raising. He has a fine herd of about thirty Holsteins and during the past fifteen years has sold more than seventeen thousand dollars worth of milk to the cheese factory at Butternut. Mr. Mayes is also interested in other enterprises of one kind and another and is a director of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, at Carson City.

To Delbert and Nettie (Knapp) Mayes three children have been born, Vernon and Louise, and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Mayes are members of the Methodist church at Carson City and take an active part in the various good works of that body, being also interested in all movements looking to the general advancement of the community interests, and are held in high regard by all who know them.

WARREN B. PIERCE.

Warren B. Pierce, a farmer and stockman of Pierson township, was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 1857, and is the son of Francis G. and Cynthia (Stuart) Pierce.

Francis G. Pierce was born in Chautauqua county, New York, being the son of Lemuel and Sybil (Chandler) Pierce. Lemuel and Sybil Pierce in their early married life owned land on both sides of the New York and Pennsylvania state line, but lived in Pennsylvania, where they died at Sugar Grove, not far from the town of Warren.

Cynthia (Stuart) Pierce was born in Ohio and was the daughter of Robert and Polly (Devereaux) Stuart. Robert Stuart, the father, was born in the north of Ireland, where his parents had settled after coming from Scotland. Robert came with his parents to the United States when but four years of age. Cynthia Stuart was but a girl when she came with her parents to Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, and here she met and married Francis G. Pierce.

Francis Pierce and his wife, after their marriage, continued to live in Pennsylvania for some seven years, after which time they moved to Wisconsin in 1861. Here Mr. Pierce enlisted in the army in February, 1863, and served till the close of the Civil War, in the Forty-ninth Volunteer

Infantry. After his discharge he returned to Wisconsin, where he owned a farm at the time of his enlistment, but which had been sold by the family, who had moved to Baraboo. He remained here until 1869 when he and his family came to Montcalm county, where they homesteaded eighty acres of land, and here they resided until the son, Warren B., purchased the same and the parents came to live with him and here they died. They were the parents of the following children: Anice G., the wife of Gilbert Murphey; Warren B., May M., the wife of John H. Cook, of Manclona, Michigan; James, at Woodland, and Jesse, who after reaching his majority, moved to California, where he died.

Warren B. Pierce remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, assisting on the farm, he being the mainstay of the family at that time. From the time he was twenty-one until he was twenty-eight, he was at work in the woods. After the seven or eight years in the woods he returned to the old home, where he purchased forty acres of the old home farm.

On January 2, 1886, Mr. Pierce was married to Harriett Kenney, the daughter of Harvey and Catherine (Dixon) Kenney. To this union have been born the following children: May C., the wife of Leo Powers, of Ensley township, Newago county; Francis W., who lives in Pierson township, and Alexander, who died at the age of five months. After their marriage they lived on a rented place for the first year, after which they bought eighty acres of the present home place, of one hundred and twenty acres. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have developed and improved the farm, until they now have one of the most pleasant and comfortable homes in the community.

OLON JAMES HOUGHTON.

Olon James Houghton, successful farmer and stock raiser, and a citizen prominent in the public affairs and official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Allegany county, New York, on October 6, 1857, a son of James W. and Maria Olive (Clark) Houghton, the former born in Allegany county, New York, on January 10, 1835, a son of Leonard Houghton and wife, and the latter born on February 4, 1836, in Granger township, of the same county.

Leonard Houghton, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Houghton, New York, on September 5, 1797, a son of Luther and Anna (Winn) Houghton, the former born at Winchester, New Hampshire, on

December 8, 1769; the latter born on July 18, 1769. Luther Houghton spent his early life at Windsor, Vermont, and after his marriage moved to Linden, Caledonia county, New York, living there until some time later, when he went to Houghton, Allegany county, New York, where he purchased three hundred acres of land, which, before his death, Luther Houghton apportioned among his three sons, which land yet remains in possession of the descendants of the elder Houghton. Luther Houghton was known as one of the influential and public spirited men of his day, it being said that the friendliness and fraternal spirit which he exercised towards the Indians of the community had no small part in the peaceful attitude of the Indians toward the early settlers of northwestern New York state at that time.

Luther and Anna Houghton were the parents of five children: Emma, who was Mrs. Handy, she dying on June 8, 1846; Luther, who died in infancy; Leonard, a minister of the Methodist church, who died on April 24, 1840; Loren and Warren. Luther Houghton died on October 30, 1854; his wife, Anna, died on February 7, 1838.

Leonard Houghton grew to maturity on the home farm, later becoming a minister of the Methodist church, a profession in which he was most able, his ministry in the pioneer days having been an important element in the development of his community. On November 22, 1819, Leonard Houghton was married to Tamzin Foy, who was born on December 12, 1797, and to this marriage were born four children: Samuel, who died on June 13, 1850; Willard, who died on April 21, 1896; Stephen; and James W. Leonard Houghton died on April 24, 1840; his wife died on March 13, 1856.

James W. Houghton was reared on the home farm and educated in the common schools of Allegany county, New York, after which he became a farmer, an occupation in which he was successfully engaged during the whole of his active life. On April 3, 1856, James Houghton was married to Maria Olive Clark, who was born in Granger township, Allegany county, New York, and to this marriage was born one son, Olon James. James W. Houghton died on June 6, 1860; Mrs. Maria Houghton died on September 17, 1912.

Olon James Houghton came to Day township, Montcalm county, with his mother, who after the death of James Houghton was married, secondly, to Luther Handy, a descendant of Eunice Houghton. Olon J. Houghton was educated in the public schools of this community, and afterward became a farmer, following this occupation for some time. He then became a merchant, conducting a general store at Westville, in Day township, Montcalm

county, for about eight years. In 1902 Mr. Houghton secured his present farm of eighty acres in Douglass township where he now engaged in general farming and in the raising of considerable quantities of high grade live stock, this together with the conducting of a dairy business, the stock which supplies the custom of Mr. Houghton being of the choicest to be found in the community.

On March 31, 1882, Olon James Houghton was married to Grace E. Jenks, who was born on October 12, 1862, in Gratiot county, Michigan, a daughter of Horace and Malissa (Woodard) Jenks. Olon James and Grace E. Houghton became the parents of five children: Grace E., born on February 7, 1883; Blanche M., March 9, 1885; L. H., April 26, 1887; Bessie P., September 1, 1890, and Leonard O., July 31, 1900.

Grace E., the wife of Olon James Houghton, died on April 14, 1902, and on March 7, 1905, Mr. Houghton was married, secondly, to Mrs. Elizabeth (Brown) Cook, who was born on December 4, 1861, in Ionia county, Michigan, a daughter of Enoch and Elizabeth (Burgess) Brown, natives of Vermont and Oakland county, Michigan, respectively. Prior to her marriage to Mr. Houghton, Mrs. Houghton was the wife of Rufus R. Cook, and to this union were born five children: L. B. and Elnora, deceased; Mary, Byron and Catherine.

Not only has Olon James Houghton been successful as a farmer and dairyman, but as a business man he is prominently affiliated, now being a stockholder of the local telephone company, as well as president of the McBride Produce Company, of Montcalm county.

Olon James Houghton has taken a leading place in the official life of Douglass and Day townships, for two terms having been a supervisor of Day township, a school director of the same community, justice of the peace in that township, and now Mr. Houghton is serving as justice of the peace in Douglass township. In addition to his other offices of trust and honor, Mr. Houghton served, for several years, as postmaster of Westville, Montcalm county. Politically, Mr. Houghton is a Republican, although he is practically independent in local political affairs.

Fraternally, Olon James Houghton is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, being prominent in the affairs of this organization. As a citizen and as a man Mr. Houghton is highly respected; his unselfish life and his interest in the public welfare, to the promotion of which he has given much time and effort, having won for him a place of note among the people of Montcalm county.

WILLIAM GRAHAM.

One who has achieved a place of authority in the agricultural life of Montcalm county, Michigan, is William Graham, who was born April 9, 1855, at Doylestown, Ohio, and came to Michigan with his parents as early as 1856. John Graham, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born on the 22d of July, 1797, in Pennsylvania, and in the spring of 1856, moved to Ionia county, Michigan, where he lived for a short while before coming to Montcalm county for permanent residence. He settled in the northern part of section 31, in Bloomer township, and began shortly after his arrival to convert the land which was at that time a tract of wilderness in a cultivated farm. After clearing a small piece of land for the purpose of erecting a crude log dwelling, he tested the adaptability of the soil and after a few short years of experimental farming, began to realize the fruits of his well-directed efforts and perseverance. Mr. Graham passed away on February 11, 1869, when William Graham, who was the eldest of three children, was fourteen years old.

John Graham was united in marriage to Perlina Wheaton, a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, who was a most valuable assistant to her husband in the early struggles of his life in Michigan. Perlina (Wheaton) Graham, who was born in February, 1825, was the daughter of Orson Wheaton, a native of New York, who came to Montcalm county during the same year that John Graham immigrated to this section of the country. His coming to Michigan was due to the tragic events in his life which made his stay at the home of his nativity almost impossible. When he was a small child an epidemic of small-pox visited the locality in which he was reared and claimed his mother and two sisters. The boy, who was eleven years old, was advised by the physician in charge to escape the danger and as a result, without seeing or hearing of the members of his family again, Orson Wheaton ran away and began his life as an orphan in the sparsely settled regions of Michigan. Later he became well known as a lumberman and lived to be ninety-five years old, passing away in 1890. His daughter, the mother of the subject of this sketch, became noted in the community in which she lived for her acts of charity and self-sacrifice. She took an active part in the affairs of the United Brethren church and of the branch in Bloomer township was a member for twenty-five years.

William Graham was reared on the farm and after the death of his father assumed the responsibility which was thrust upon him as the eldest

son in the family, and remained a valuable assistant to his mother in the work of managing the farm. After the death of Mrs. Graham, which occurred on August 26, 1885, after she had reached the age of sixty years, William Graham continued to farm on the home place where he still resides. The farm, which is located in section 31, of Bloomer township, consists of forty acres of cultivated land.

In April, 1891, the marriage of William Graham to Rebecca Gooby, the daughter of Matthew Gooby, and a native of Ionia county, Michigan, took place. To this union the following children have been born: Milton, Claire, Leon and Ella Louise. Mr. Graham has for many years been affiliated with the Odd Fellows lodge and manifests a social spirit in all fraternal activities of the community in which he lives.

FRANK A. STEVENS.

Frank A. Stevens, successful farmer and stockman, and prominent citizen of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Bushnell township, on October 4, 1864, a son of Lyman and Eunice (Bacon) Stevens, both of whom were born in the state of Michigan, where they received their education and where they were married, afterwards becoming farmers in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, for the remainder of their days. The elder Stevens was successful as a farmer, having owned two hundred acres of land, all of which was in a good state of cultivation. Lyman Stevens was an active member of the United Brethren church, while his wife, Eunice, was a member and worker in the Congregational church. Lyman and Eunice Stevens were the parents of five children, three of whom are living: Josephine Grace, who lives at Palo, Ionia county; Howard, who lives in Alberta, Canada, and Frank A., of this sketch.

Frank A. Stevens received his education in the public schools of Montcalm county, after which he became a school teacher, being engaged in this profession for ten years and then Mr. Stevens became a farmer of Bushnell township, securing a farm which he has improved and where he now lives as a general farmer and as a raiser of considerable quantities of live stock. Mr. Stevens has one of the desirable farms of the community, his place being known as "Pleasant View Farm."

On March 8, 1885, Frank A. Stevens was married to Lessie F. Jones, who was born in Steuben county, New York, a daughter of J. H. and Mary C.

(Somers) Jones. Frank A. and Lessie Stevens are the parents of one daughter, Florence, who was born in the year 1906. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Stevens was a well-known school teacher in Montcalm county.

Frank A. Stevens is prominently affiliated as a fraternal man, being a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons; of Stanton Chapter No. 110, Royal Arch Masons; of Ionia Council No. 12, Royal and Select Masters, and of Ionia Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar. Mr. Stevens and his wife are members of Palo Chapter No. 204, Order of Eastern Star, and of Mizpah Shrine No. 10, White Shrine of Jerusalem, at St. Johns, Michigan. Mrs. Stevens is past worthy matron, Order of the Eastern Star, and past worthy high priestess of the White Shrine. Mr. Stevens is past master of Palo lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, and is one of the best known men of Masonry in Montcalm county and the vicinity.

In politics, Frank A. Stevens has taken an active part, now being township treasurer for Bushnell township, Montcalm county. Mr. Stevens is affiliated with the Republican party.

CORNELIUS FREDERICK CLOSSON.

The ancestors of the subject of this biographical sketch did well their part in the pioneer work of the development of this section, and helped to establish the high standard of social order which now prevails in Montcalm county. Cornelius Frederick Closson was born on September 1, 1876, in Ferris township, this county, the son of Abner P. and Delilah (Smith) Closson. Abner P. Closson was a son of Samuel Closson and wife, who were early settlers in Montcalm county.

The father of Samuel Closson was a plantation owner and slave holder in the South, and because of his aversion to the system of slavery Samuel left home when quite young and went to Virginia. There he worked as a farmer and was married. Later he emigrated to Michigan and located in Ferris township, Montcalm county. At that time the land was nearly all timbered, and under the pioneer conditions typical of that period Samuel Closson developed a farm and reared a family in Ferris township.

Abner P. Closson was born in Ferris township, this county, in 1843, and early in life began to assist his father in the work of the farm. Later he spent considerable time in the lumber camps of Montcalm county when the timber business was the most important industry of that region.

Abner P. Closson was married, in Ferris township, to Delilah Smith, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, in 1843. To this union were born six children, as follow: Mrs. Elmina Hall, deceased; Adraina, wife of Joseph Wagar, of Charlevoix county, this state; Mrs. Ella May Williams, deceased; Cornelius F., the subject of this sketch; Peter, a resident of Ferris township, this county, where he lives with his mother on the old home farm; Lillian, wife of Bert Benton, of Ferris township, this county.

In 1885 Abner P. Closson removed with his family from Montcalm county, trading his Montcalm county farm for one in Lake county. He later moved to Otsego county, this state, where he farmed for four years, and there he met his death in an accident in 1890. Mrs. Delilah Closson took the family to Gratiot county, where they spent two years at Alma, and in 1892 they removed to Ferris township.

Cornelius F. Closson received his education in the common schools and completed his school training in the Alma union school. He was reared as a farmer and on coming to manhood started to work for himself in the agricultural line. After his marriage he rented land for some time and then purchased eighty acres in Ferris township, which he partially cleared and improved and farmed there for six years. In May, 1911, Mr. Closson moved to Edmore, this county, and entered the real-estate business. For two years he worked alone, dealing in real estate, writing insurance and making loans. He then became general manager of the real-estate business of Ketchum & Morse and served in that capacity for one year, at the expiration of which period he bought out the interest of S. D. Ketchum and the name of the firm was changed to Closson & Morse, and in this business Mr. Closson is now actively engaged. This firm does a thriving business, as both members are well and favorably known throughout Montcalm county. By actual experience in the field Mr. Closson has acquired first-hand knowledge of every type of soil found in this section of Michigan and is a careful judge of land values. The company has established a reputation for fair dealing which merits their increasing patronage.

On April 9, 1899, Cornelius F. Closson was married to Ora Hunt, who was born in Ionia county, this state, a daughter of Charles and Maggie (Frazier) Hunt. Mr. and Mrs. Closson are the parents of five children, Hazel, Luella, Leola, Bernice and Wellington Frederick. The Closson family are members of the Disciples Christian church of Ferris township.

Cornelius F. Closson is an active Gleaner of the Ferris Center arbor,

and is also a member of the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. Closson is a Republican and in the spring of 1914 was elected as justice of the peace, in which position he is still serving. While he does not seek the "lime-light" Mr. Closson tries to do his part in advancing every measure that will tend to make Montcalm county a better place in which to live. He is a helpful neighbor, a devoted father, and has a host of friends in this county, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem.

ALMERON N. KNAPP.

Almeron Nathan Knapp, the oldest living settler of Bloomer township, Montcalm county, is a figure of much force in the history of the county in which he lives. He has given of his best to the service of the state and holds precedence as one of the representatives of agricultural life in that community. The subject of this sketch, who was born on January 24, 1840, in Harrisville, Medina county, Ohio, is the son of Charles W. and Alvira (Judson) Knapp. His father, who was a native of Chemung county, New York, having been born there on November 23, 1808, was a son of Zephaniah Knapp, and came to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, with his parents when he was six years old. Upon reaching the age of twenty-one years he moved to Medina county, Ohio, where he was married to Alvira Judson, also a native of the state of New York, and the daughter of Samuel Judson.

In 1851, the history of the Knapp family in the state of Michigan began, when Charles Knapp, the father of the subject of this sketch, moved to the section of the state three and one-half miles south of where Palo is located. He rented a tract of land, now known as the Hoople farm, where he remained until November, 1852, when he moved to Bloomer township, Montcalm county. An amusing transaction took place when Mr. Knapp acquired eighty acres of land in this township, by trading for it a horse and wagon and a double harness. When relating the story of the trade he said that in addition to the eighty acres he also received a cow and a double buggy, with the family cat as a token of good will. When Mr. Knapp first took up his residence on the farm the land was covered entirely with timber and underbrush. Wild animals, including wolves, ran at liberty and deer often served as food for the pioneers of that community. In 1884 Mr. Knapp traded his farm in order that he might move to Palo, where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away in August, 1891.

Almeron N. Knapp gave his services to help save the Union during the Civil War, risking his health and making noble sacrifices. In the fall of 1861, after he had returned from a visit to the West, Mr. Knapp, who was at that time just twenty-one years of age, enlisted in Company I, Berden's First Regiment, United States Volunteer Sharpshooters. He followed the entire activities of the war, remaining in service until March 6, 1865. During that time he was part of the Army of the Potomac. Mr. Knapp was ill during most of the war period and still feels the effects of the strain upon his health after all the years since the war.

In August, 1866, Mr. Knapp was united in marriage to Phoebe Ann Swem, a native of Elkhart, Indiana, and the daughter of Asa Swem, a Methodist minister, who was also born near Elkhart. After his marriage Mr. Knapp moved to the farm opposite his father's place in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, where he lived for a year. At the end of that time he took up his residence two and one-half miles south of Butternut, where he followed the occupation of general farming, until 1914, at which time he retired from active duties of the farm. At the present time he resides in Butternut. He relates that when the Knapp family came to this county, Indians were still living in remote sections of the township and the nearest white settlers were as far as two miles north from the Knapp home. The father of Almeron N. Knapp used the first "jumping shovel" plow, in this part of Michigan.

Mr. Knapp, the subject of this sketch, attended the first town meeting of Bloomer township, which was held at the home of Anderson Miner. Twenty-three voters were present and a knife box taken from the meager supply of kitchen utensils of the household was used as a ballot-box. At the age of fifteen years, Mr. Knapp joined the Methodist church and has been a member of that congregation ever since. His wife, who passed away in 1876, was also a member of the same church.

Mrs. Knapp became the mother of five children: Ama Ida May, the wife of Albert Fowler, of Bloomer township, who soon after their marriage moved to northern Iowa, where they rented a farm and in transaction of business he lost his property. While on this farm their son, Harry States, was born, the parents separating soon after his birth. Mrs. Fowler moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she still resides. Her son, Harry States, when he became of age went west to Alberta, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, where he now resides. The second child, Charles Asa Lorenzo, was born in Bloomer township at

the home farm on the 16th of July, 1868, who married Minnie Carey, and to this union were born the following children: M. I., George, Floyd and Austin, who now reside on the old farm. The third child was Sarah Jane Elizabeth, who died at San Lake, Mason county, at the age of ten years, while living with her grandfather, Asa Swem. The fourth child was Minnie Maud, who later married Bruce Clement in the township of Bloomer, and is the mother of two children, Donald and Alma May, who now reside in Saginaw, Michigan. A fifth child was later born, who died in infancy.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Knapp married Harriett Rosetta Mosier, a native of the state of New York, and the daughter of Oliver Mosier. Her parents moved to Muir, Michigan, when their daughter was a girl, and from Muir came to Evergreen township, in this county, where they became well known and where they spent the remainder of their lives. Harriett (Mosier) Knapp has become the mother of the following children: Willard Oren, who married Lucy Grimwood and who lives near Butternut; Oscar, who died at the age of eight months, and Iva B., the wife of Claire Reynolds, of Butternut. Mrs. Knapp is an earnest member of the Methodist church, where she is prominently affiliated with the aid society. Mr. Knapp holds membership in few organizations, but takes an active interest in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic at Carson City, with which body he has been connected since the formation of this branch of the society.

IRWIN M. COLLINS.

The late Irwin M. Collins was a Christian gentleman and a review of his life is justly entitled to a place in the pages of this history. He was the son of Charles E. and Adela (Bennett) Collins, and his birth occurred in their home in Lenawee county, Michigan, on May 17, 1871. Charles Collins was a native of Lenawee county, Michigan, and was born on May 24, 1855. His parents were Simeon and Phoebe A. (Soule) Collins. Simeon Collins was born on January 22, 1820, and was the son of Hiram Collins and wife, both natives of New York state. Simeon Collins was reared and educated in his native state of New York and his marriage to Phoebe Soule was solemnized there. She was born in 1827 and was the daughter of George B. and Ellen (Clement) Soule, who left their native state and settled in Steuben county, Indiana, where they farmed for many years, finally locating in Waterloo, Indiana, where they both died. Following his

marriage, Simeon Collins removed to Lenawee county, Michigan, where he engaged in blacksmithing until his death on March 6, 1897, at the age of seventy-seven years. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, four of whom died in infancy. The three remaining children are Edward S., now residing in Cedar Lake, Michigan; George E., near Fenwick, Michigan, and Charles E.

Charles E. Collins, father of the late Irwin M. Collins, was married in 1873 to Adela Bennett, daughter of Moses and Susanna (Soule) Bennett, and to their union were born the children whose names follow: Fred, now residing in Jackson county, Michigan; Irwin, deceased; Frederick, also in Jackson county, Michigan; Millis, also a resident of Jackson county, Michigan; Edward, Ira, Orval and Conn. Charles E. Collins came to Cedar Lake, Michigan, about 1880, engaging in both the lumber business, as a jobber, and in the agricultural line. He now lives in Jackson, Michigan.

Irwin M. Collins was reared in Home township, Montcalm county, Michigan, his home being in the town of Cedar Lake, where his preliminary education was received. He later became a student in the Ferris Institute, in Big Rapids, Michigan, where he took up special work for fitting himself as a teacher. For six years, following his work at the Ferris Institute, he was engaged in school teaching. He also attended the Michigan Agricultural College, in Lansing, Michigan, but did not graduate because of illness. He then returned to Cedar Lake and, with his wife, made a trip to California in search of health, later returning to Cedar Lake. A short time after his return he became principal of the Vestaburg public schools, Vestaburg, Richland township, Montcalm county, Michigan. While on a southern trip, Irwin M. Collins and his wife made plans of the unique home, "The House That Jack Built," the original of which was built on a bluff of the Tennessee river near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The duplicate of this is a fine modern residence and the material used is mostly cobble-stone. There is nothing like it in the county and this community may well be proud of it. Irwin M. Collins was an active Republican and notary public until his death, which occurred on December 28, 1909.

On March 27, 1902, Irwin M. Collins was united in marriage to Mary Nelson, daughter of William S. Nelson, who was the founder of the town of Cedar Lake, Michigan, and a prominent lumberman of that town. He was born on July 6, 1837, in Palmyra, Lenawee county, Michigan, and is the son of Judge Francis Nelson, one of the pioneers of Gratiot county, Michigan, where he located as early as 1854, and of which county he held the office of judge of probate for twelve years. William S. Nelson enjoyed the

advantages of a good common-school education, and also studied for several terms in the colleges at Hillsdale and Kalamazoo, Michigan. On October 28, 1860, he was married to Harriet McHenry, of St. Louis, Michigan. He purchased a large farm in Arcade, Gratiot county, Michigan, which he improved and on which he resided for sixteen years. This place was disposed of in 1876, and he then removed to Cedar Lake, Michigan, where a business partnership was formed with James T. Hall, under the firm name of Nelson & Hall. This firm built a saw-mill on the banks of Cedar Lake, Michigan, and engaged in lumbering on an extended scale. Later Mr. Hall sold his interest to Mr. Bates, of Oswego, New York, and the firm was afterward known as Bates & Nelson. Their mill was burned in the spring of 1878, and the firm was then dissolved, since which time William S. Nelson has conducted the business alone. In connection with the lumbering business he manages a general store, his various enterprises giving employment to a considerable number of men. William S. Nelson is the eldest of three brothers, the others being Hon. Wilbur Nelson, a prominent merchant of Ithaca, Michigan, and Rev. Theodore Nelson, of East Saginaw, Michigan.

JAMES CORDER.

James Corder was born on May 2, 1881, in Richland township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Painter) Corder. Benjamin F. Corder was born on February 12, 1850, in Ohio, and was the son of Elias and Helen (Howell) Corder. Elias Corder was a native of Virginia, and his wife was born in Ohio. Benjamin F. Corder remained in his native state until he was seventeen years of age and then removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, with his father and stepmother. When Benjamin Corder first came to Michigan he assisted his father with the work on the home farm of forty acres, in Ferris township, which place he helped to clear and cultivate. He then moved to Richland township where he settled on his present place.

James Corder was reared as a farmer and completed his education in the high school at Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, remaining on the home place until his marriage. On February 9, 1909, he was married to Cora Taylor, daughter of Frank and Vida (Ferguson) Taylor, and they became the parents of two children: Benjamin, born on December 13, 1910, and Beatrice, born on January 5, 1912. The mother of these children

was born in Breckenridge, Gratiot county. After marriage, James Corder engaged in the cultivation of forty acres of land in Richland township for two years, finally selling it and locating in the town of Vestaburg, Michigan. In April, 1912, he was appointed as highway commissioner. He also served as director of the Block school in this township for one year. Politically, James Corder is an active Republican and serves his party at every opportunity.

CICERO W. HARTT.

Cicero W. Hartt, the owner and proprietor of "Hartt's Resort," Pierson township, Montcalm county, as well as the owner of one hundred and twenty-one acres of land, in section 20, of Pierson township, is the son of Samuel and Eliza J. (Gilchrist) Hartt, and was born in Oxford, Ontario, Canada, on December 19, 1857.

Samuel Hartt was born in Canada and was the son of Jonathan and Jemima (Phillips) Hartt, who brought their family into the wild country of Canada from New England. Jonathan Hartt was a native of New Hampshire while his wife was a native of the northern part of Pennsylvania. Jonathan was the son of John Hartt, who was a member of the Continental Congress and was one of five brothers, two of whom remained loyal to the cause of England during the Revolution, the three remaining brothers being stanch supporters of the Colonists. The name was originally "Hart," but the three brothers who remained loyal to the union of the states changed the name to "Hartt."

Jonathan Hartt in time moved to New Brunswick, where he was engaged in lumbering and later moved to New York and finally settled with his family thirteen miles from Hamilton, Canada, where he died. Samuel Hartt was twelve years of age when his father died and two years later his mother died. After the death of his parents he learned the trade of a millwright which he followed for some years. In 1869 he moved to Lowell, Michigan, where he remained until the next year when he moved to Grand Haven, where he lived for one year and then went to Sand Lake, where he worked at the lumber business until 1880.

On September 3, 1854, Samuel Hartt was united in marriage to Eliza J. Gilchrist, the daughter of John and Margaret Gilchrist, who came from New Brunswick and were of English origin. Samuel Hartt, after moving to Newaygo county, took a contract of lumbering, as well as the manufac-

turing of lumber and the erection of a large saw-mill. He was there until 1896 when he came to live with his son, Cicero. He died on September 21, 1908, the wife and mother having died on April 9, 1890.

Samuel Hartt and wife were the parents of the following children: Emily, the wife of H. L. Carter, of Traverse City; Cicero W., Ella Jane, the wife of L. B. Brandish, of Grand Rapids; Sylvia, the wife of Frank E. Shatluck, of Sand Lake, and Charley, who died in infancy. Mr. Hartt was a member of King Hiram Lodge No. 33, Free and Accepted Masons, of Ingersoll, Canada, later transferring his membership to Big Rapids, Michigan.

Cicero W. Hartt lived at home with his parents till he was thirty years of age, being engaged with his father in mill work and as a partner in other enterprises. At the age of thirty he went to Newaygo county, where he engaged in the manufacturing business for eight years. While there he was married, on February 11, 1891, to Maude M. Barbour, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Barbour.

Frank W. Barbour was the son of Theron W. and Abigail (Gates) Barbour, the former of whom was a native of Rutland and the latter of Shoreham, Vermont. Frank W. was born at Pontiac, Michigan, on November 20, 1840, and died on July 31, 1914. He received his education in the district schools, after which he studied dentistry and removed to Mt. Clemens. For fourteen years he was the general foreman of the Detroit and Lansing plank road, and for eight years foreman of the Detroit and Saline road, after which he moved to Newaygo county, where he purchased two hundred acres of land, which he improved and developed.

On August 29, 1863, Frank W. Barbour was united in marriage to Harriett D., the daughter of George and Hannah M. (Sowles) Matthews. Her father was a native of Connecticut, having been born in 1799 and died in 1871. Her mother was born on January 8, 1811, and died on June 17, 1881. Mrs. Barbour was a native of Michigan, having been born in Ingram county on December 11, 1846. They were the parents of the following children: Arthur, who died on December 24, 1865; Maude, born on March 30, 1867; Frankie R., October 12, 1869; Nellie J., December 28, 1871; Albert W., June 7, 1875; Robert F., February 17, 1879, now deceased; Stephen S., December 15, 1881; Theron W. and Abigail. Mrs. Harriet Barbour died on April 7, 1913.

Cicero W. Hartt, on coming to Montcalm county, purchased fifty-six acres of land and later added to this sixty-six acres. He was among the first to see the advantage to be gained by the establishment of a first-class

summer resort at his Michigan home. The result of his forethought was the development of "Hartt's Resort," which has become a very popular place.

Cicero Hartt and wife are the parents of the following children: J. Samuel, born on December 16, 1893, a graduate of the local high school and of the electrical engineering department of the Michigan Agricultural College and at present is with the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power plant, and Sylvia Mona, born on September 6, 1902, at home with her parents.

Mr. Hartt is an active member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is also an active Republican and served two terms as treasurer of Monroe township, Newaygo county, Michigan.

JACOB MCCREA.

The late Jacob McCrea, who was a successful farmer, a pioneer and prosperous business man and a citizen of prominence in the affairs of McBride, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Plymouth, Ohio, on April 4, 1847, the son of Isaac and Mary Ann (Church) McCrea, pioneer farmers of Barry county, Michigan, the former, after the death of his wife, having lived at Petoskey for some time, and then came to McBride, Montcalm county, where he died in 1885.

Jacob McCrea was educated in the schools of Barry county, Michigan, and lived in that community until 1871, when, being twenty-four years of age, he came to Montcalm county, and became a worker in the lumber camps of Day township, at a time when the country was thinly settled and when there were few signs of civilization. In 1874, having been married, Jacob McCrea went to the town of Westville, Montcalm county, and there started a general merchandise store, a place which he conducted for some time and then sold, Jacob McCrea then engaging in farming for about one year, after which he returned to the mercantile business and continued as a merchant of Westville, until 1879, when he moved to the newly settled town of McBride. At McBride, Montcalm county, Jacob McCrea opened a harness and shoe store and conducted an undertaking establishment for a short time and then added a hotel to his interests, he being prosperously engaged in the conduct of his business when a disastrous fire swept over the town

and destroyed the whole of his property, with the exception of his home. After the fire, Mr. McCrea again established himself in business, carrying a large stock of general merchandise and following his business as an undertaker, when, in 1879, a second fire swept the town and destroyed the greater part of the property of Jacob McCrea. Later, Mr. McCrea again started in his business, opening a first-class store in the newly-erected Neff block and conducted his undertaking place on the site where the McBride postoffice now stands. At these places Jacob McCrea was successfully engaged in the pursuit of his business interests for the remainder of his active life.

In addition to his career as a business man, Jacob McCrea, for seven years, was engaged in general agricultural pursuits on his valuable farm of two hundred and four acres of land located about one-half mile south of the town of McBride.

On October 22, 1874, Jacob McCrea was married to Ellen Bibler, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, on July 26, 1857, a daughter of John and Leah (Vanness) Bibler, natives of Ohio. To the marriage of Jacob and Ellen McCrea were born two children, Claude C. and Clyde Parker.

Claude C. McCrea was born on May 10, 1881, at McBride, where he received his early education and where he received his business education in the concerns of his father. After having completed the courses of study in the McBride public schools and having studied, with his father, for the profession as an undertaker, Claude C. McCrea went to the city of Detroit, and there completed in three weeks, the six-months course of study for a state license as an embalmer. Since the completion of his special education, Claude C. McCrea has conducted the undertaking establishment started by his father and in addition to this work has acted as manager of other McBride interests.

Claude C. McCrea has been active in the official life of Day township, Montcalm county, having served a term as township treasurer and he now is occupying the office as postmaster of McBride, Mr. McCrea having taken up the duties of this office in August, 1915. Claude C. McCrea is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Daughters of Rebekah, a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, and he takes a leading place in the Modern Woodmen of America lodge at McBride.

Clyde P. McCrea is an engineer and electrician, now being an employee of the Edmore Canning Company, at Edmore, Michigan.

Jacob McCrea was a Royal Arch Mason and was a man who was foremost in all organizations and who was active in all movements for the better-

ment of the town or the improvement of living conditions. His place in the town of McBride and in Montcalm county, Michigan, was an important one and since the death of Jacob McCrea, at McBride, on August 29, 1904, this good man and esteemed citizen has been sincerely mourned by a host of friends and associates.

JAMES PURDON, M. D.

Dr. James Purdon, well-known physician and surgeon at Edmore, this county, where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession since the year 1897, is a native of Canada, having been born at Stratford, Ontario, April 20, 1870, son of James and Barbara (Livingstone) Purdon, both of whom also were natives of the dominion, both having been born in the neighborhood of Ottawa.

James Purdon, Sr., was born in 1828 and his whole life was spent in Canada, having been a successful farmer and lumberman. In 1853 he married Barbara Livingstone, who was born in 1828, daughter of Duncan and Mary Livingstone, natives of Glasgow, Scotland, and a first cousin of Dr. David Livingstone, the great African explorer. Doctor Purdon has in his possession a native lance, which was owned by and used by Doctor Livingstone during his African travels, which came to him from his mother and which he prizes very highly as a souvenir of the wonderful life work of his illustrious kinsman. Doctor Purdon's mother died in 1876 and his father died in 1885. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Robert, of Brandon, Manitoba; Mary, who married J. C. Henry and also lives at Brandon; Jennie, who married John A. Morris and lives in Winnipeg; Barbara, who married John Gower and also lives in Winnipeg; Alexander, of London, Ontario; Duncan, of Chicago, and James, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch.

The junior James Purdon was reared in Canada and received his elementary education there, remaining at home until he started to college. Following a course at the Ottawa Normal School, he entered Jefferson Medical College, in New York City, from which he was graduated in 1897, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In the fall of that year he took a post-graduate course in New York and in December, 1897, came to Michigan, locating at Edmore, in this county, where he ever since has been engaged in the practice of his profession, during which time he has established a high reputation as a physician and surgeon throughout this part of

the state. Doctor Purdon ever has kept abreast of the wonderful advances being made in his noble profession and in 1911-12 took a post-graduate course in the Chicago Polyclinic Medical College. He is a member of the famous Surgeons Club, of Rochester, Minnesota; a member of the American Medical Association and of the Michigan State Medical Society, in the affairs of all of which organizations he takes a warm interest. He is city health officer at Edmore and is the local surgeon for the Pere Marquette Railroad Company.

On April 20, 1910, Dr. James Purdon was united in marriage to Clara Simon, who was born near Remus, in Mecosta county, this state, daughter of Frank Simon and wife, and who has proved an admirable helpmate in the doctor's difficult and exacting field of labor. Both Doctor and Mrs. Purdon take a warm interest in the social and cultural life of the community and are held in the highest esteem thereabout. They have two children, daughters both, Mildred and Ruth. Doctor Purdon is a Mason, a member of the Knights Templar and the Shrine of that order at Grand Rapids, and is an Odd Fellow, taking an active interest in the affairs of these orders.

HERMAN R. BLUEMLY.

An exponent of marked progressiveness and civic loyalty in Montcalm county is Herman R. Bluemly who holds a representative place in the field of agriculture. He, being one of a family of eleven children, four boys and seven girls of whom all are still living, was born in August, 1871, in Easton township, Ionia county, and is the son of Frederick and Rosina (Meier) Bluemly. Frederick Bluemly was born on March 13, 1825, in Langendenzlingen, Baden, Germany, and in the early sixties came to this country where he settled near Evansville, Indiana, following the occupation of a farmer. In 1861 he moved to Ionia county, Michigan, where he bought a farm in Easton township. The county was in its primeval state and in order to clear a piece of ground for the farm dwelling and small garden Mr. Bluemly was obliged to set fire to valuable timber, most of which was oak and walnut. There was then little profit in selling the lumber as the trading stations were too great a distance from the farm. Until his death, Mr. Bluemly followed the occupation of a farmer. On January 25, 1889, he was killed by a railroad train, an incident which was most tragic for the wife who survived him. Rosina Meier, who was a native of

Dentzlinger, Germany, came to America at the age of fourteen years, when the time required to cross the Atlantic occupied forty days and forty nights. From early childhood Mrs. Bluemly experienced more than the ordinary share of adventure and thrilling incidents. She recalled distinctly the days when Germany and Russia were at war, how the Russian army in passing through the town in which she lived took with them all her father's possessions. Her family was obliged to scatter during the soldiers' visit to their home and she took refuge under the bed until the last traces of the army had disappeared. Upon arriving in this country Mrs. Bluemly went to Evansville where she met the man who later became her husband. She passed away on July 5, 1901.

The early education of Herman R. Bluemly was received in the district school near his father's farm in Easton township. Later, he attended the high school at Carson City a short time. Until his marriage, with the exception of a few months which were spent in travel through the West, Mr. Bluemly worked on the farm owned by his father. At the age of twenty-nine years he bought a farm of eighty acres in Orleans township, Ionia county, which he managed but did not use for his residence. He made his home on the farm belonging to his father-in-law which was located one mile from his own farm, and which extended over one hundred and seventy acres. After three years spent upon this farm he bought a place four miles west, on the boundary line between Orleans and Easton townships. This forty acres was mostly timber land and the task of clearing it a difficult one. For three years during the process of clearing the land, Mr. Bluemly conducted a store in which general merchandise was sold. Mr. Bluemly has made his home in Butternut since 1910, when he sold out his interest in the store and came here to engage in the buying and shipping of stock in partnership with his father-in-law. He still finds time to work along the lines of general farming.

On September 10, 1901, the marriage of Herman R. Bluemly and Nellie Blanche Higbee took place. Mrs. Bluemly, who is a native of Orleans township, Ionia county, is the daughter of Chancellor and Ida (Bishop) Higbee and an account of the life of her distinguished father appears on another page of this volume. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Bluemly, one son has been born, Corris Chancellor.

Mr. Bluemly has always taken a prominent part in the fraternal life of the community in which he lives. He holds membership in the Maccabees, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Grange.

JOSIAH MARTIN.

Josiah Martin, successful farmer, fruit grower and stock raiser, and a man of prominence in the affairs of the Mennonite church, of Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on August 13, 1845, in Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, the son of David and Rebecca (Schantz) Martin.

David Martin, who was the son of Peter Martin, and a descendant of a well-known family who came originally from Switzerland, in the early part of the 17th century, they taking an important part in church and political affairs of colonial American life, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1815, and four years later went, with his parents to Canada, where David Martin, in 1838, was married to Rebecca Schantz, the daughter of Christian and Paul Schantz. David Martin lived in Woolrich township, Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, for the remainder of his days, dying in the year 1894. David Martin, in 1857, was ordained a deacon of the Mennonite church, an office which he served in a most efficient manner until his death.

Josiah Martin grew to maturity on the home farm in Ontario, Canada, aiding his father until 1886, when Josiah Martin went to Osceola county, Iowa, where he engaged in general farming on six hundred and forty acres of land for eight years. About 1896, Mr. Martin disposed of his land in Osceola county and purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, near South Haven, Michigan, where he engaged in farming and in fruit growing until October, 1899, when Josiah Martin traded his farm for a farm of nine hundred and twenty acres in Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits, making a specialty of breeding Aberdeen-Angus cattle, pedigreed Percheron horses and pure-blooded White Plymouth Rock chickens. On his farm Josiah Martin has adopted the most modern and scientific methods for the cultivation of his land, and his equipment is the most complete of the community, including a large gasoline tractor which operates four plows. In addition to his other farm activities, Mr. Martin gives a considerable portion of his effort to the raising of fruit, his product being of the best to be found in the county and vicinity.

During the year 1868, Josiah Martin was married to Sarah Clemmer, who was born in Waterloo county, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Abram and Lydia (Schantz) Clemmer, natives of Pennsylvania and of Waterloo county, Ontario, respectively. To the marriage of Josiah and Sarah Martin

have been born the following children: Abram, who lives with his father; Cyrenus, a farmer living near the home place, who married Elizabeth Bauman and to whom have been born three children, Eli, Urias and Paul; Josiah, who lives at home; Elam, a farmer on part of the home place, who married Lavina Gingerich and to whom have been born nine children, Ivan, Sarah, Anna, Rachel, Leah, Ellen, Lavina, Ezra and one child who died in early childhood; Lucy, who is deceased; Lydia, who lives at home; Menno, who lives with his brother Elam; Simeon, a meat dealer of Hubbard, Oregon, who married Ruby Andrews; and Manasseh and Sarah, who live at home. Josiah Martin and his wife, together with four of his children, are members of the Mennonite church.

Josiah Martin is an ordained minister of the Mennonite church and is one who takes an important place in the work and worship of this denomination. Mr. Martin is one of the highly respected men and appreciated citizens of Day township, in Montcalm county, and is a man who has done no little in the development of the county and its resources.

CHESTER ROCKAFELLOW CULVER.

Chester Rockafellow Culver, the son of Charles Richard and Clara Rose (Rockafellow) Culver was born on December 23, 1883, at Carson City, where he grew to manhood and was educated in the public schools.

Charles R. Culver was born at Ringwold, Kent county, England, in June, 1855, and was the son of Joseph and Mary (Minter) Culver. He came to America alone, when but sixteen years of age and has been self-supporting; beginning work at the age of nine in a tobacco store at home. Having a brother in Michigan, he determined to come to the united States and later became a resident of Ionia, where he worked in Hudson's store. About 1875 he came to Carson City, where he managed the store of H. P. Miller and later took charge of the Rockafellow Mercantile Company, which is the institution now owned by Chester R. Culver. He remained here as manager until 1905 when he became the owner of the place. In 1909, after several changes, the store was sold to his sons, Francis N. and Chester R., the partnership continuing for two years, at which time Chester became the sole owner.

Mr. Culver occupies two stories of the building for his large stock of goods. Here is found a complete line of boots and shoes, dry goods, hats,

men's and boy's furnishings, groceries and notions. In connection with the store, the owner has a wagon on the road, by means of which he conducts a large business, going direct to the homes of the purchasers.

Charles R. Culver, since his retirement from the store has his headquarters at Battle Creek and travels in the interests of the Building and Loan Association of Lansing.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Culver are the parents of five children: Francis M., Grace E., Jessie Louise, Mary M. and Chester R. Jessie Louise died on January 8, 1916, in Denver, Colorado, and interment was in the cemetery at Harrison City. She was married to Robert G. Hemphill, who was descended from distinguished ancestry, his father having been a captain in the Confederate army and later was clerk of the state senate in North Carolina.

Chester R. Culver began work at Detroit at the age of nineteen and remained there for three years, where he was employed in a wholesale dry goods house. He then came to Carson City for two years, was married and took up his residence in Battle Creek, where he was employed in a gents' furnishing store for three years, after which he returned to Carson City and engaged in business.

On September 4, 1907, Chester R. Culver was married to Ida V. Fisher, who was born at St. Charles, and is the daughter of William H. and Hettie A. (Speers) Fisher. William H. Fisher was born in Bleadon, Somersetshire, England, and was the son of James and Louise (Every) Fisher, who came to the United States about 1856. They settled in Washtenaw county, where James Fisher died a few years ago. William H. Fisher enlisted in Company C, First Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, before he was eighteen years old and saw much active service, receiving a severe wound which has bothered him all his life. For a time he suffered the horrors of prison life at Andersonville, where he was a prisoner of war.

Shortly after the war Mr. Fisher was married to Hattie Hill, who died leaving one son, Harry M. He later married Hettie A. Speers, a native of Seneca Falls, New York, and a daughter of Cornelius and Hester (Parker) Speers, who settled in Corunna, Michigan, where Mr. Speers made boots and shoes.

After marriage, William H. Fisher lived for a time on a farm near St. Charles, and later became a resident of Texas, where he was employed by a railroad company as an engineer in the yards, until his death in 1886. Besides his widow he left two children: Mrs. C. R. Culver and George A.

Mrs. Fisher, after the death of her husband, returned to Michigan and lived at Harbor Beach. Some years later she married Samuel A. Fuller and to this union one child was born, Carrie E., the wife of William J. Engle, of Harbor Beach. Since the death of Mr. Fuller in 1911, the widow makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Culver.

Mrs. Chester R. Culver received her education in the public schools of her home town and at the Ypsilanti Normal School, from which institution she was graduated in 1903. She was later a teacher in the schools of Carson City, Battle Creek and Whiting, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Culver are the parents of one child, Elizabeth Louise.

JESSE BENTON KIMBALL.

Jesse Benton Kimball, well-known farmer and prominent citizen of Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Hillsdale, Michigan, on April 15, 1856, the son of Jesse and Naomi (Beard) Kimball.

Jesse Kimball, Sr., came to the state of Michigan, from his home in Cattaraugus county, New York, in the early fifties, and lived at Breedsville, Michigan, until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in Company B, First Michigan Engineers, a command with which he served as an engineer, having the care of bridges and other engineering works, until his death as a result of typhoid fever, about two years after his enlistment. Jesse and Naomi Kimball were the parents of six children. Jesse Kimball, Sr., who was known as Captain Kimball, was a prominent man of his community prior to the Civil War, having taken an important part in the slave question agitation, preceding the war, and having been active in the conduct of the "underground railway," of that time. Captain Kimball was present and took an active part in the convention, at Jackson, Michigan, where the Republican party was born, and he was a delegate to the national convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President.

Jesse Benton Kimball was but eight years of age when his father died, at which time the family was divided and Jesse Benton went to make his home with the Jacob Smith family, where Jesse Benton Kimball lived until he was of an age to make his own way in the world. When fifteen years of age, Jesse Benton Kimball, after recovering from an accident in which he lost some of his fingers, went to the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he worked in a paint shop for a time, after which he spent some years

as an employee of a saw-mill in the woods of the state. In 1900, Jesse Benton Kimball came to Montcalm county, and settled on a farm of forty acres, in section 27, Day township, a place which Mr. Kimball had purchased while he was engaged in the lumber field. On his farm in Day township, Jesse Benton Kimball lived as a general farmer until 1914, when he disposed of his original farm and purchased a place of one hundred and sixty acres located in section 14, Day township, a farm which Mr. Kimball has greatly improved and where he now engages in general agricultural pursuits.

During the year 1880, Jesse Benton Kimball was married to Flora Sukey, who was born in Vermont, the daughter of Frank and Julia (Sailers) Sukey, natives of Canada, who later moved to Vermont, after which they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, a place which was their home until 1876, when they came to Stanton, Montcalm county. To the marriage of Jesse Benton and Flora Kimball have been born four children: Oliver, a farmer of Day township, who married Sarah Hallock and to whom have been born four children, Leman, Lloyd, Tina and Ila; Hazel, who is the wife of George Heller, a farmer of Day township; Ray, who cultivates the home place and who married Mary Gunckle; and Jessie, who lives at home.

Jesse Benton Kimball is one of the highly respected citizens of Montcalm county, Michigan, his unselfish life and his interest in the development of the community having given him a place among the foremost citizens.

LEROY K. JARSTFER.

Leroy K. Jarstfer, a well-known farmer of Crystal township, this county, is a native of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Ada township, Kent county, this state, on April 8, 1862, son of Michael and Rhoda Ann (Beach) Jarstfer, and has been a resident of Montcalm county since the year 1895.

Michael Jarstfer was born in Germany and he and his brothers and sisters came to this country, proceeding directly to Michigan after their arrival and locating in Kent county. There Michael Jarstfer became a farmer and there he married Rhoda Ann Beach, who was born near the city of Syracuse, New York, and who came to this state with her parents, Henry and Rosanna (Sweet) Beach, who located in Ada township, Kent county, where they entered a tract of "Congress land" at one dollar and twenty-five

cents an acre. When the Civil War broke out, Michael Jarstfer enlisted for service in a Michigan regiment and in battle received a wound in the leg from which he ever after suffered a disability. Upon the close of his military service he returned home and the rest of his life was spent in Kent county.

Leroy K. Jarstfer was reared on the paternal farm in Kent county and from the days of his early boyhood was noted among his friends for his diligent industry. At the age of thirteen he began doing man's work and labored at anything his hands could find to do, for some time having been engaged in the hazardous occupation of well-digging, during which time he narrowly escaped death on several occasions. In the fall of 1892 he went to Ionia, where he secured a position as head attendant in one of the wards of the hospital for the criminal insane there and was thus engaged. During this form of service he formed the acquaintance of Floy B. Zerba, who was employed in one of the female wards of the hospital and on June 12, 1895, they were married. Floy B. Zerba was born in Branch county, this state, daughter of Joseph Clinton and Phoebe (Purdy) Zerba, both of whom were born in that same county. Joseph B. Zerba was a son of Isaac and Sarah (Huey) Zerba. He grew to manhood on the home farm in Branch county and married Phoebe Purdy, daughter of Alexander and Emaline (King) Purdy, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania, daughter of Hosea and Sallie (Thompson) King, the former of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock and the latter a native of Canada. Joseph Clinton Zerba and family moved to Montcalm county about a quarter of a century ago and located on the east end of the farm where Mr. Jarstfer now lives, in the northeast part of Crystal township, where they began life in a little log house in a small clearing in the woods. After living there about five years they moved to Ferris township, where they spent a few years, at the end of which time they moved to Belding, where they now live.

Following their marriage in the summer of 1895, Mr. and Mrs. Jarstfer came to this county and located on the farm where they now live, in section 12, of Crystal township. Mr. Jarstfer has done wonders in the way of improving that place, having erected a good house and barn and other buildings, and made other extensive and valuable improvements. When he took hold of the farm much of it was overgrown with underbrush and there was considerable timber still standing, besides which the place was in sad need of proper drainage. Mr. Jarstfer drained and cleared the place and now has one of the best farms in that neighborhood. He originally owned a

full quarter of a section there, but has since sold forty acres off the place. Mr. and Mrs. Jarstfer are the parents of four children, Leonard, Otto, Clifford and Stacy.

CHARLES L. HICKS.

Charles L. Hicks, successful farmer and citizen, prominent in the public and official life of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Sumner township, Gratiot county, Michigan, on January 18, 1880, a son of Philip and Ella (Stearns) Hicks, the former born in Ohio, in 1849, a son of James Hicks and wife, the latter born in Ohio in 1855, a daughter of Lawson and Emily Stearns.

James Hicks was born in Devonshire, England, and came to America in 1847, and settled near Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived until 1856, when he moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, and located west of the town of Sumner. There he established a home amid pioneer surroundings and engaged in lumbering in the winter and farming in the summer, later he built the hotel at Sumner which he conducted for many years.

Philip Hicks grew to maturity at Sumner, Gratiot county, received his education in the local schools and then became a farmer. In 1872 he was married to Ella Stearns, who lived with her parents, Lawson and Emily Stearns until her marriage. After their marriage they located on an eighty-acre farm in section 31, Sumner township, Gratiot county. To this they later added sixty acres more. To the marriage of Philip and Ella Hicks were born nine children: Charlie, the eldest child, died at eight months of age; William J., Della, Eda, Charles, Glen, Howard, Ina and Frank.

Lawson Stearns and his wife, Emily (Ferris) Stearns were natives of New York and came to Ferris township, Montcalm county, in 1864, and settled on their farm on section 26, where they lived until their death. Lawson Stearns was a soldier of the Civil War, dying shortly after the close of the war. Joseph, a son of the elder Stearns, served in the Second Ohio Cavalry and was killed in the Civil War.

Charles L. Hicks was educated in the public schools of Sumner, later completing a business course of study at a business college of St. Louis, Michigan. He then accepted employment with the American Express Company, at Petoskey, Michigan, remaining in this work for two years, after which he was married and then located on a farm which he purchased in Crystal township, Montcalm county, farming on this land for six years. After this time

Mr. Hicks disposed of his land in Crystal township and secured a farm in Ferris township, south of Vestaburg, where he now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

During the year 1901, Charles L. Hicks was married to Myrta Hare, a native of Ferris township, this county, and to this marriage have been born three children: F. Arloe, who died at the age of nine months; Judson R. and Arvid R., who live at home. Mrs. Hicks is a daughter of Franklin D. and Adrienne (Lewis) Hare, the former born at Sandusky, Ohio, a son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Neff) Hare; the latter born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, a daughter of DeWitt and Maria (Brace) Lewis. Christopher Hare was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and when fifteen years of age moved with his parents to New York state, later going to a place near Toronto, Canada, where he lived until twenty years of age. He then moved to Sandusky, Ohio, where he was married to Elizabeth Neff, a daughter of Abram Neff and wife, after which Mr. Hare lived as a farmer near Sandusky for about twenty years, then moving to Ionia county, Michigan, where Christopher Hare lived for a short time. In 1855 the elder Hare moved to Montcalm county and took up one hundred and sixty acres of school land near Ferris Center, in section 16, Ferris township. On this place Mr. Hare built a rude house, and proceeded to prepare his land for cultivation, living for many years as a pioneer farmer. Christopher Hare was a prominent citizen of his community, serving as township treasurer for three terms, as township clerk some time and for one term occupied the office of county treasurer for Montcalm county. Mr. Hare was a prominent Mason and was affiliated with the Church of Christ, of which his wife was an active member and worker. Christopher Hare died in the year 1891, his wife, Elizabeth, in 1880. Christopher and Elizabeth Hare were the parents of nine children, of whom Franklin D. was the fifth born. Franklin D. Hare lived on the home farm until after his marriage when he rented his father's farm for some time, later purchasing forty acres of land in section 21, Ferris township, which he improved and to which he added eighty acres of land afterward. Mr. Hare cleared his land, working as a farmer in summer and as a lumberman in the winter, prospering until he was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, now retaining one hundred and twenty acres, forty acres having been sold to a son. Later Mr. Hare sold to the township the land on which the town hall now stands. During the year 1892, Franklin D. Hare erected a store building on his farm and has since engaged in the general merchandise business.

On October 28, 1866, Franklin D. Hare was married to Adrienne Lewis,

who moved, with her parents, from her native home in Hillsdale county, Michigan, to Montcalm county, about 1864, locating near Ferris Center, later moving to a farm near Crystal, where the elder Lewis and his wife spent the remainder of their days. To the marriage of Franklin D. and Adrienne Hare were born twelve children: Goldie G., Ida, Libbie, Cora, Fred, Clinton, Christopher, Myrta, Judson, Anna, Emma and Vera. In September, 1894, Adrienne, the wife of Franklin D. Hare, died.

Charles L. Hicks has taken a prominent place in the official life of Ferris township. For two years he served as township treasurer and for the past three years has served with his usual efficiency as supervisor. Politically, Mr. Hicks is a Republican. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hicks are affiliated with the Church of Christ at Ferris Center.

JOSEPH WOODS.

Among the well-known and successful farmers of Evergreen township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Joseph Woods, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, on August 7, 1862, the son of Henry J. and Hannah (Rock) Woods, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. Hannah (Rock) Woods came to Ohio with her parents and some years later was married to Henry J. Woods, after which they lived their lives as farmers for the remainder of their days, with the exception of three years, when Henry J. Woods served as a soldier in the armies of the Civil War. Henry J. and Hannah Woods were the parents of the following children: Malinda, Nancy J., Mary E., Margaret, John G., Joseph, and two children who are deceased.

Joseph Woods received his education in the schools of Mercer county, Ohio, after which he worked on the farm until he was seventeen years of age and then started to make his own way in the world, working for a part of the time as a farmer and part of the time as an employee of the Standard Oil Company, in one of their mills of his locality. Later, Joseph Woods moved to Michigan and settled in Evergreen township, Montcalm county, where he bought a small farm located near Sheridan, where Mr. Woods has since been successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On December 30, 1882, Joseph Woods was married to Josephine Brandon, who was born in Mercer county, Ohio, on August 29, 1865, the daughter of J. V. and Temperance (McDonald) Brandon. Joseph and Josephine

Woods are the parents of three children: Clara, the wife of Bloom Coates; Fannie, who is the wife of Morris Offenhauer, of Lansing, Michigan, and Russell, who after graduating from the common schools is now a student of the high school. Joseph Woods and his wife are active members and workers of the Christian church, they taking a great interest in the work and worship of this denomination. In politics, Mr. Woods is an ardent Democrat, although he has not aspired to public office, preferring to serve his community as a private citizen. Joseph Woods and his family are among the respected and esteemed people of Evergreen township and Montcalm county, their unselfish lives and progressive ways having won for them a host of friends and admirers.

CHARLES HIRAM CROSS.

Among the successful farmers and prominent citizens of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Charles Hiram Cross, the owner of "Fairview Farm," who was born at Talmadge, Ottawa county, Michigan, on October 17, 1866, a son of Hiram Albert and Mary (Porter) Cross, natives of New York state, the former born in 1838, the latter in 1840.

Hiram Albert Cross, who was a son of Albert and Harriett Cross, who after moving to Ottawa county, Michigan, died there, moved to Ottawa county with his parents, and after reaching maturity bought a farm of one hundred acres, which he cultivated for some time and then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he lived for the remainder of his days, dying on October 13, 1909. Mary, the wife of Hiram Albert Cross, died in 1880. Hiram Albert and Mary Cross were the parents of five children: Hattie, who is now Mrs. Lynch, of Douglass township, this county; Charles Hiram, Fred, who lives on the home place near Talmadge, Ottawa county, Michigan; Bertha, who is now Mrs. Jury, of Tacoma, Washington, and Ruby, who was Mrs. Cole, who died on August 26, 1901.

Charles Hiram Cross grew to maturity on the home farm and was educated in the common schools of Ottawa county, after which he became a farmer, living in his native county until after his marriage, when he came, in the year 1894, to Montcalm county, and settled near Stanton. Later, Mr. Cross moved to his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he rented for about one year and then purchased the place, improving the place with a new residence and outbuildings and adding the most approved equip-

ment, until now the farm of Mr. Cross, which is known as "Fairview Farm," is one of the best improved and well cultivated places of the township and county. Mr. Cross, in addition to his general farming, makes a specialty of raising Ohio Improved Chester hogs.

On October 18, 1887, in Ottawa county, Michigan, Charles Hiram Cross was married to Caroline E. Jury, a native of Canada, and a daughter of William H. and Agnes (Moore) Jury, natives of near Brantford, Canada, who now live in Douglass township, where he bought a farm of forty acres. William H. Jury is a minister of the Free Methodist church. Their children were seven: Norris H., Anna M., Caroline E., James H., Eleanor D., William H. and Myrtle A., all of whom are living.

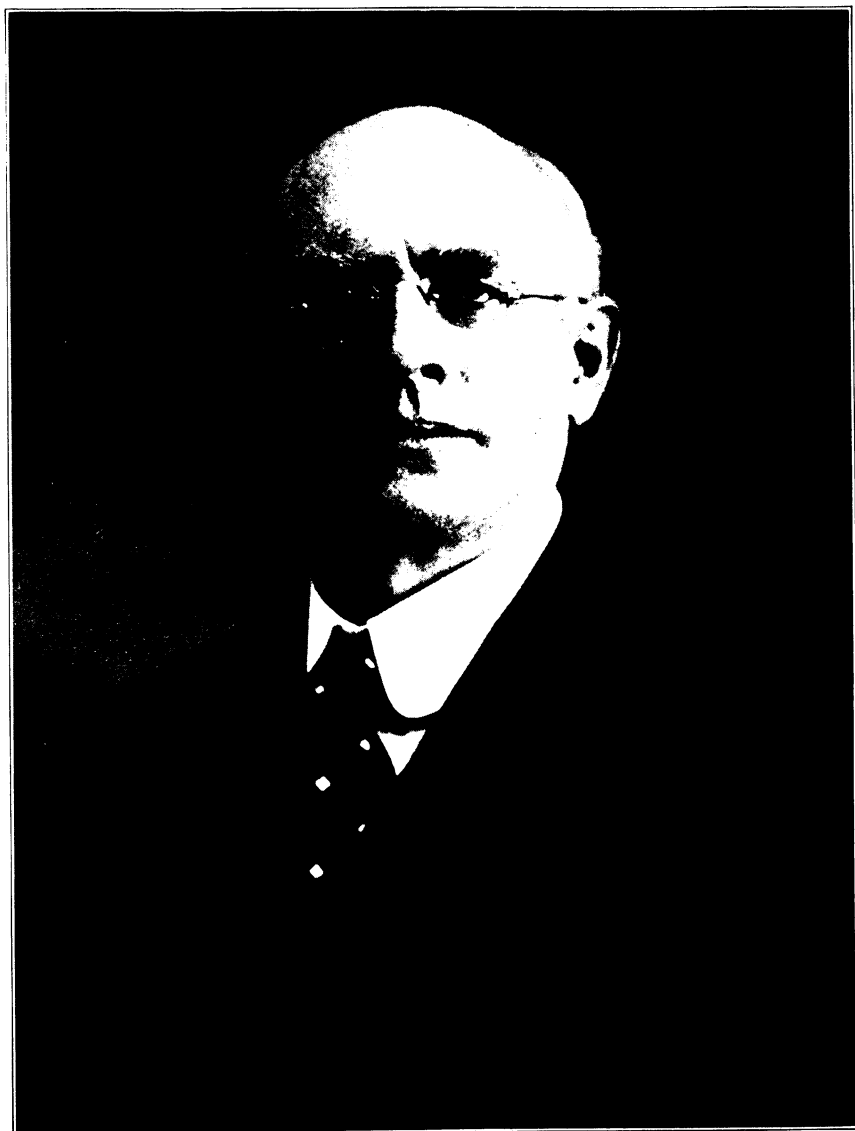
Charles Hiram and Caroline Cross are the parents of five children: Nina, who was born on September 6, 1890, she now being the wife of Gilbert Crooks, a farmer of Douglass township, they being the parents of one son, Charles T.; Orla W., born on February 10, 1893, who married Alta Comden, they living on a farm in Douglass township, this county; Mary A., born on July 21, 1895, she living at home; Ruby B., born on July 3, 1897, she being a graduate of the Stanton high school and county normal, and Nihl M., born on July 9, 1899, the latter two living at home. Mrs. Cross is a member of the Baptist church at Entrican.

Fraternally, Charles Hiram Cross and wife are members of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and also both are members of the Grange, at Entrican. In politics, Mr. Cross is a Republican.

JOHN W. DASEF.

America has a goodly heritage, which we should endeavor to hand on with value unimpaired to those who shall come after us. Only as we realize our own high duty and responsibility shall we be able to bequeath to posterity the noble inheritance we ourselves have received. The state of Michigan is still in the making. The blending of her various peoples into one homogeneous whole to work out the vast problems of civilization is the immediate task before us. The descendants of the original settlers will be expected to stand foremost among the many in projecting the activities of the future.

As we perceive the shadow to have moved along the dial, but did not perceive it moving; and it appears that the grass has grown, though nobody ever saw it grow; so the advances we make in knowledge, as they consist of



JOHN W. DASEF.

such insensible steps, are only perceivable by the distance. The same truly may be said of the progress of communities in a civic, social and industrial way. The present generation is conscious of the countless advantages shared by all the members of the community, but rarely is thought given as to how these advantages were secured, it requiring the perspective of the historian to bring into view the insensible steps by which the present lofty height was reached. It is this perspective which volumes of this character design to lend to the view. A rigid comparison of the days of the pioneers in this community with those of the present generation is as startling as it is illuminating, and if this historical and biographical work shall do no more than to create within the breasts of the younger generation of readers a vivid and comprehensive appreciation of the blessings they so readily accept as common gifts, the labor of its compilation shall have been well required.

Each generation necessarily builds upon the foundation laid by preceding generations. According to the firmness of the foundation, the superstructure will be substantial, or not. The future, of course, must be the judge of what character of foundation has been laid for the social, moral and commercial edifice being erected by the citizens of Montcalm county. However, from what the present historian notes of the high character, the determination of purpose and the exalted standards of conduct maintained by the leaders of thought and action in this section of the state, in their work of carrying on the labors of those who wrought so wisely and securely in the past, it hardly can be doubted that the superstructure of the coming civilization of this region will be all that the present generation may hope for those who shall come after. It is partly the purpose of this volume to preserve for the future some account of the lives and the labors of those who are now doing so well their part in bearing aloft the torch of civilization in this region, and it, therefore, is fitting and proper that brief biographies be here presented of those who are leaders in this noble work. As such a purpose would be but incompletely carried out without the introduction of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this modest biographical sketch, it is a pleasure on the part of the biographer here to present for the consideration of the future historian a brief resume of the life's history of his earnest co-laborer, John W. Dasef, a well-known and influential lawyer of Stanton, this county, and editor of this monumental work.

Briefly summarized, John W. Dasef is a product of Montcalm county, having spent his entire life as a resident therein. Reared as a farmer boy,

he taught school in the county and thus earned sufficient money to take him to the State Normal School at Ypsilanti and, later, the State University at Ann Arbor. In 1894 he was nominated by his party for the office of county clerk and was elected by an overwhelming majority in the succeeding election in November. That office he held for four years, his administration of the exacting duties thereof giving universal satisfaction. He did not seek re-election, but, instead, devoted himself to the study of law, was admitted to the bar and has since devoted his time to the practice of his profession, in which he has attained marked success. Mr. Dasef also has held numerous minor offices, both elective and appointive, none of which he has sought. He is a director of the Western Michigan Development Bureau and has spent much time and effort in advertising the resources of Montcalm county through that medium. It was because of his work on this bureau that Governor Ferris appointed Mr. Dasef a delegate to the international irrigation congress held in California in September, 1915, as one of the representatives from the state of Michigan. Both at home and throughout the state, Mr. Dasef has been the recipient of signal distinction and it is not too much to say that no man in Montcalm county is held in higher esteem or is more generally respected than he.

John W. Dasef is the son of Josephus and Christianna (Stuart) Dasef. Josephus Dasef was born in Young street, just north of Toronto, Ontario, on the third day of August, 1833, son of Alexander and Sarah (Mitchell) Dasef, industrious farming people who lived near Toronto in the province of Ontario. Alexander Dasef was born in Toronto on the seventeenth day of March, 1804, soon after his parents had migrated from France to the new world where they were to make their home. His father, whose name was also Alexander Dasef, had been an officer in the armies of Napoleon. He had been injured by a fall from his horse, and not being able longer to serve his country as a soldier, he emigrated to Toronto, where he established a bank, which he conducted for some years. On account of financial reverses he finally retired to a farm north of Toronto, which later became the property of his son, Alexander. Alexander, the younger, upon arriving at man's estate, married Sarah Mitchell, who was born in Macclesfield, England, on the 20th of March, 1813, of Irish-English parents. To this union nine children were born, Persianiah, Josephus, Martha Elizabeth, John Alexander, Margaret, Sophiah, Mary, Emily and Alveth Wesley. Alexander Dasef died in 1856, being fifty-two years of age. His widow survived him many years, living to the great age of eighty-four.

Josephus Dasef was reared on the parental farm north of Toronto and became a carpenter and building contractor, which business he followed in Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, until after his marriage, he and his wife coming to this county, settling in Day township on a homestead, where for four years he engaged in the lumber and timber business. The family then moved to Stanton, where Mr. Dasef resumed his activity as a carpenter and builder and was thus engaged until 1876, in which year he purchased a quarter section of land in Bushnell township, this county, which was the family home until 1907, in which year Mr. and Mrs. Dasef retired from the farm and moved to Stanton, where their last days were spent, both dying in the same month. Mrs. Dasef's death occurred on July 9, 1915, her husband's death coming a little more than two weeks later, on July 26, he then lacking but eight days of being eighty-two years of age. Mrs. Dasef was six weeks past seventy-eight years of age at the time of her death. Josephus Dasef and his wife for many years were regarded as among the most valuable citizens of the community in which so large a part of their lives was spent. They were members of the Methodist church and ever were active in good works, being always counted among the leaders in any movement designed to advance the welfare of the community or to better social and economic conditions thereabout. Mr. Dasef was a Republican in politics and for years took a prominent part in the county's political affairs, having been elected to numerous township offices during his long residence in Bushnell township. Mr. and Mrs. Dasef were the parents of seven children, namely: John W., the immediate subject of this biographical review; Alem W., of Barberton, Ohio; Major L., a well-known physician in Johnstown, Colorado; Wallace, who was drowned in Holland lake when seventeen years of age; Elizabeth, who married William G. Willett, now a resident of Portland, Oregon, and two who died in infancy. Mrs. Dasef's father, Alexander Stuart, was a native of Scotland and a descendant of the famous house of Stuart so prominent in Scotch history, and who emigrated to Canada and settled on a homestead tract some eleven miles north of Hamilton, in Wentworth county, Ontario. He was married to Elizabeth Kelly, who was born in New Jersey, of Dutch-Huguenot stock. They spent their lives on their homestead farm, Alexander Stuart dying at the age of sixty-eight and his wife at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of seven children: Christianna, Peter, Wesley, Alexander, William, David and Nelson.

John W. Dasef, eldest son of Josephus and Christianna (Stuart) Dasef, was reared to the life of the farm on the old home place in Bushnell town-

ship, receiving his elementary education in the district schools of that township, which he supplemented by a course in the high school at Stanton, after which he began teaching school, which he continued to do intermittently for several years. In the meantime he had taken a two-years course in the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, and later entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, taking the literary course there. In the fall of 1894 Mr. Dasef was elected to the office of county clerk of Montcalm county, in which public capacity he served for four years, at the end of which time he gave himself up to the attentive study of the law and was admitted to the bar, by examination of the state board in 1902, and has ever since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession at Stanton and in the courts of neighboring counties and United States courts within the state.

On December 8, 1897, John W. Dasef was united in marriage to Mary E. Jones, of Greenville, this county, who was born at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, daughter of Thomas and Martha (Hastings) Jones, the former of whom was born in England and the latter in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Thomas Jones was the son of William and Faith (Gardner) Jones, natives of Herefordshire, England, who were the parents of six children, Harriet, Henry, Thomas, William, Edward and James. He was reared as a machinist and came to America with his parents about the year 1836. He enlisted and served in the cause of the Union arms in the Civil War through that struggle between the states. Two of the great-uncles of Thomas Jones took part on opposite sides in the battle of Bunker Hill—Sir Hungerford Hold as a British officer, and William Floyd, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, on the American side. Thomas Jones died in 1879. His widow is still living at Greenville. They were the parents of five children, Harriet, Emma, Mary, Henry W. and Jennie F. The parents of Mrs. Jones, David and Mary (Sprague) Hastings, both of whom were born in Massachusetts, and both being descendants from the early Colonists, were early settlers in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, where their last days were spent. They were the parents of eight children, William and Henry, who were killed while serving as Union soldiers during the Civil War; Lucius, Horace, Elizabeth and Martha, and Olive and Anna Eliza, who died in childhood. David Hastings was a descendant of the first Lord Hastings. His wife, Mary Sprague, was a descendant of that Joseph Rogers who came to America in the "Mayflower," and who, in turn, was a descendant of John Rogers, the first martyr of Smithfield, England.

To John W. and Mary E. (Jones) Dasef four children have been born,

Hope, Thomas, Jeanne and Martha Eunice. Mr. and Mrs. Dasef are members of the Congregational church and their children are being reared in the faith of that communion. Mr. Dasef is prominently connected with the fraternal life of Stanton and is held in high regard by his lodge brethren. He is a member of Stanton Star Lodge No. 250, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Stanton Chapter No. 110, Royal Arch Masons, of which latter order he is now secretary, having passed the chairs in each order. He is also a member of Pine Grove Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Evergreen Encampment No. 89, having passed the chairs in both those orders; likewise a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, at Greenville, and a member of the Grange, in all of which societies he takes an earnest interest.

Mr. Dasef is a Republican and a member of the Greenville Republican Club, the only organization of its kind in the county, in which he has held office. For years he has given his most intelligent attention to political affairs in Montcalm county and throughout this district, and has been a forceful factor in party circles, his influence ever having been exerted strenuously in behalf of good government, so that his name has become known far beyond the confines of his home county. The distinction recently conferred upon him by Governor Ferris has been touched on in the introduction to this review, nor need there be further reference to his other valuable public services; it being sufficient to say that these services are widely recognized.

ALBERT A. ALMY.

Albert A. Almy, township supervisor of Belvidere township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is a native of this county, born in Cato township, May 5, 1860, son of Alfred M. and Phidelia R. (Gallea) Almy.

Mr. Almy's father was born in Genesee county, New York, July 1, 1832, and there received his education and grew to manhood. When a young man he left his native state and came westward to Ohio, where he met and married Phidelia R. Gallea, born and reared in Portage county, Ohio. Alfred M. Almy brought his wife to Montcalm county in 1856 and they settled on a farm in what was then a wilderness, in Cato township, and were among the early pioneers of that section. He lived to see the difficult life of the pioneer with its many hardships and privations, give way to comfortable and modern ways of living, and his farm which had been covered with timber and under-

growth, become one of the best farms of the section. He died in Cato township, where he has passed so many years, in January, 1904, at the age of seventy-two years. Alfred Almy was a veteran of the Civil War and by virtue of that fact a member of Lakeview Post, Grand Army of the Republic. He was active in Republican circles in the early days, and being keenly interested in the development of his home county, was highway commissioner of the township for two or three terms. His wife survived him until 1911, passing away at the age of seventy-three. They were the parents of six children, as follow: William, deceased; Albert, Isadore, deceased; Mary F., now Mrs. Riches, of Cato township; Emory E., of the same township, and Clifford, who died in infancy.

Albert A. Almy received such education as the limited facilities of Cato township offered in his boyhood and remained on the home place, assisting the father, until the time of his marriage. Previous to marriage, however, he had invested in a tract of eighty acres in Belvidere township, where he has since made his home and is still actively engaged in carrying on general farming.

Albert A. Almy was married on December 31, 1884, to Mary E. Clement, born in Canada, a daughter of James and Mary (Blasdel) Clement. A full history of the Clement family will be found in the sketch of John N. Clement, presented elsewhere among these pages. To Mr. and Mrs. Almy have been born two children, the elder of which is Clifton C., who married Ethel Hughes and lives next to his father on the same farm, assisting him in the management of the same. Clifton has three children, Merl, Carroll and Harris. Mae, Mr. Almy's younger child, married C. C. Bollinger and resides in Belvidere township. She has one child, Donald. Mr. Almy handles the best of live stock, favoring purebreds only. He has a full-blood Guernsey bull and intends to handle nothing but that breed. He has made great improvement in the place since purchasing it, as it has been entirely cleared and placed under cultivation, buildings erected, etc., and is now one of the finest country homes in this section.

Mr. Almy has been actively engaged in the ranks of the Republican party for many years. He has served as justice of the peace of Belvidere township for a couple of terms and in April, 1915, was elected township supervisor. Mr. Almy has for the past quarter of a century been a member of the Entrican, Michigan, lodge of Maccabees and has for the same length of time been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He takes active part in the work of South Belvidere chapel, as does also his wife, and he has been both trustee and steward of the church for some time.

Mr. Almy is a well known and highly respected citizen, a good farmer and capable business man. He has seen many changes come about in the manner of living in Montcalm county, and no one enjoys modern advantages more than he. He recalls with interest the time when the nearest postoffice was at Greenville, and correspondence was necessarily limited.

NIEL H. YOUNGMAN.

A dealer in furniture and hardware, an undertaker, and a citizen who has always been prominent in the fraternal and political life of Lakeview, is Niel H. Youngman, who was born in Jutland, Denmark, October 12, 1850. Mr. Youngman is the son of Christ and Marie (Platt) Youngman, the former of whom was born in Germany, and the latter a native of Denmark. Christ Youngman was a contractor and builder by occupation and followed this trade all of his life in his native country. Mr. and Mrs. Christ Youngman were the parents of five children, of whom Niel H. was the youngest.

Niel H. Youngman received a good education in Denmark, attending both the common and high schools, and, when eighteen years of age, came to America, being the first of the family to come to this country. He had learned the cabinet-maker's trade in his native country and, upon coming to the United States, settled first in Chicago, where he followed this occupation until 1878. In that year he went to Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he engaged in the manufacture of sashes, doors and blinds, and two years later came to Lakeview, where he started a furniture and undertaking establishment, which was the first of its kind in the town. He also had the distinction of shipping in the first carload of merchandise to come to Lakeview over the new railroad after it was built through this town. In 1903 he added a large stock of hardware and stoves to his business, and later took the agency for the Ford and Overland automobiles, in which he is very successful. In 1895 Mr. Youngman went to Chicago and took a course in embalming at the Chicago School of Embalming, after which he was admitted as a licensed embalmer by the state board of health.

In June, 1878, Niel H. Youngman was married in Greenville to Anna Anderson, who was born in Denmark, a daughter of Andrew Anderson and who came to the United States with her parents at the age of seven years. To this union have been born four children, one of whom is deceased. The living children are Grace, who married Fred Kendall and lives in Spokane,

Washington; Leo, who married Bess Farnsworth, and is a licensed embalmer engaged in business with his father, and Clifton, who is married and is also engaged in business with his father, having charge of the automobile agency. The firm is known as N. H. Youngman & Sons.

Politically, Mr. Youngman is a Republican and has served as councilman and as a member of the school board for fifteen years, nine years of which he was president of the board. The Youngman family are members of the Congregational church and take an active part in all of the affairs of this denomination. Fraternally, Mr. Youngman is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of the Maccabees, and he and his son, Leo, are both members of the Free and Accepted Masons, of which Mr. Youngman has been master of the local lodge for fifteen years. He is also a member of the Pilgrim Commandery, at Big Rapids, and of the Knights Templar. Both he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which he has been worthy patron for six years.

Seven years after coming to this country, Mr. Youngman returned to Europe and made a tour of that continent, visiting England, France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, extending this trip to a length of ten months. In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Youngman made a nine weeks trip through the West, visiting all of the larger cities.

GEORGE H. LESTER.

The late George H. Lester, who was a successful farmer and a citizen prominent in the official life of Crystal township, Montcalm county, as well as in the legislative affairs of the state of Michigan, was born in Schuylerville, New York, in 1842, a son of George W. and Elizabeth M. (Fitzsimmons) Lester.

George W. Lester moved to Newaygo, Michigan, about 1856, and engaged in his business as a lumberman until 1859, when he died. Following the death of the elder Lester, his widow, Elizabeth, together with her children, moved to Ronald township, Ionia county, and there purchased a farm where they made their home, the children cultivating the place as general farmers.

During the month of December, 1867, three years after his marriage, George H. Lester came to Crystal township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and secured a farm of forty acres, which he cultivated, from time to time improving his place and adding land until he was the owner of two hundred acres

of well-improved and highly cultivated land, on which he was successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits, for the remainder of his days.

George H. Lester, in the year 1865, was married to Oneella Hawley, they becoming the parents of five children: Edith M., born on December 10, 1868, and who died on February 10, 1875; Edna B., February 28, 1876, and died on May 30, 1906; Fern, February 7, 1878, and died on March 21, 1878; Ben H., June 21, 1880, now chief train dispatcher at Pontiac, Michigan, who on June 19, 1901, married Lottie Coryelle, at Carson City, Montcalm county, and George H., February 2, 1884, who on November 24, 1901, married Alice Viola Berry, they now living at Jackson, Michigan, where Mr. Lester is a locomotive engineer. To Ben H. and Lottie Lester have been born two children, Harry E. and Edna B. and to George H. and Alice Lester have been born two children, Donald George and Thelma Lucile.

Oneella Hawley is a daughter of Alpheus C. and Lucena (Emerson) Hawley, natives of Vermont and of Bath, New York, respectively. Following their marriage Alpheus and Lucena Hawley, in 1846, moved to Ronald township, Ionia county, Michigan, where they became early farmers, Mr. Hawley also following his trade as a carpenter, his efforts having no small part in the building up of the community. Later, Alpheus Hawley became a fur buyer throughout the state, traveling about the various counties dealing in raw furs, a business in which this pioneer dealer was especially successful, and a line of trade which he followed until about three years before his death, when Mr. Hawley suffered a stroke of paralysis, from which he never recovered.

Alpheus C. and Lucena Hawley were the parents of six children: Alpheus C., who died at the age of eighteen years; James, who after graduating from Hillsdale College, enlisted for service in the Civil War and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga, on September 20, 1863; Benjamin, who enlisted for Civil War service, on March 14, 1864, and after four months service died at Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas; Lucinda, who married Martin Miner, a prominent pioneer citizen of Bloomer township, Montcalm county; Cornelia, who became the wife of Hezekiah Little, of Ronald township, Ionia county, Mr. Little dying in 1875, survived by his widow and two sons, Alpheus C. and James H., the widow later marrying William F. Petties, they now living at Palo, and to them having been born a daughter, Maude, who now is the wife of Claude Dixon, of Ronald township, Ionia county, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon being the parents of twin daughters, Marie and Marion; and one boy, Ben, born in 1901, and Oneella, who married George H. Lester.

Lucena, the wife of Alpheus C. Hawley, died in January, 1850, and

during the month of October, of the same year, Mr. Hawley was married, secondly, to Mrs. Adelia (Tuttle) Lemon, who was the mother of one daughter, Nancy A. Later, Nancy A. Lemon became the wife of Capt. William Brown, a veteran of the Civil War, who died in 1905.

George H. Lester was one of the most prominent of the public men living in Montcalm county, having served as township clerk for four years, as township treasurer two terms, and after that time served Crystal township as a supervisor for about thirty years, during which time Mr. Lester was acting as chairman of the board of supervisors for a number of years. Mr. Lester not only was active in the local official life but he took a place of importance in the public life of Michigan, in 1890 having been elected to the office of representative in the state Legislature, serving with honor and dignity in this office, for two years.

George H. Lester was prominent in the affairs of the Montcalm County Grange, having served as master of this organization for about thirty years, as well as having been, for many years, master of the Pomona Grange. As a church worker, Mr. Lester was well known, he, together with his wife having been active in the work and worship of the Methodist church at Crystal, and also at Carson City. Mrs. Lester, for a number of years, was president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at both of these cities. George H. Lester, after an active and useful life, during which time he reflected honor on himself and his community, died, on March 17, 1910, mourned by a host of friends.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Lester, on November 12, 1913, was married to Rev. Jesse Burdge, a retired minister.

JARED V. COMSTOCK.

Jared V. Comstock, the son of Israel and Betsy (Fuller) Comstock, was born on October 21, 1830, in the state of New York. Israel Comstock was also a native of New York, while his father was born in Connecticut of a Yankee father and an Irish mother. Betsy Fuller Comstock, the mother of Jared, was born in the Black River country of New York. Her father was a native of England and her mother of Wales.

Jared V. Comstock came to Michigan with his parents when but fourteen years of age. The father and mother, with their ten children, made

the long journey, by way of Canada to Detroit, in a wagon drawn by horses. The family remained at Detroit but a short time and then took up their residence in Jackson county where they purchased a farm, and remained five years after which they located near where Jared V. now resides, on the line of Ionia and Montcalm counties. Here the father purchased eighty acres of land and here all the boys, with the exception of one, settled and made their homes.

Of the twelve children of Isaac and Betsy Comstock, all grew to manhood and womanhood. Those now dead are George, Christina, Edwin, Nelson, Elijah and Selena. Of the living, Sophronia is the widow of Frank Hull; Rowland lives in Silvertown, Oregon; Jerome is also a resident of the Oregon town; Henry, on the old homestead; Benjamin, in Shilo, Michigan, and Jared V., the subject of the sketch.

Jared V. Comstock lived at home with his parents until they came to Montcalm county, while he remained in Jackson county where he worked for others for some years. He later came to Montcalm county, where he purchased one hundred acres of land where he now lives. The money with which he purchased this farm was made by him while working in Jackson county. After coming to Montcalm county he assisted in the clearing of his father's place and placing it under cultivation. Later he devoted his attention to the clearing of his own farm and preparing it for crops.

Jared V. Comstock was married to Mary Jones on January 1, 1857, she being the daughter of Samuel Jones, who lived in Ionia county. After their marriage they settled on the farm where they have since resided. Mrs. Comstock died in 1863. To this union the following children were born: Adelle, who became the wife of George Prey, is now dead; Fannie is the wife of Frank Myers and lives at Owosso, and George, who lives in Ionia.

After the death of his wife Mr. Comstock married Dora Hays, the daughter of William Hays, and to this union the following children were born: William, who lives in Osceola county; Grant, deceased; Nellie, the wife of Percy Hoyt, of Tulare, California; John, in Sheridan, and Guy, on the home place.

Politically, Mr. Comstock is a Republican and cast his first vote for Fremont. He has never been a seeker after office, yet he has served his township as highway commissioner. Mr. Comstock and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Comstock has served as steward and trustee of the church at Palo.

JOHN N. HILLER.

John N. Hiller is one of the most active and progressive business men and citizens of Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, and has always been a man of sterling worth. He was born on August 8, 1880, in Caro, Tuscola county, Michigan, and is the son of Walter and Ella (Montgomery) Hiller. Walter Hiller was born on his parents' farm, located six miles from Caro, Tuscola county, Michigan, his birth occurring on September 26, 1844. He is a twin son of Levina Hiller, a native of New York state. At one time he was the owner of a farm in Tuscola county, Michigan, but has discontinued farming and now is employed at various occupations. Ella Montgomery is a native of Sarnia, Canada, and came to Michigan when she was but four years of age, locating in Tuscola county, where she was reared and educated and afterward married. She was born on July 15, 1857. To the union of Walter and Ella (Montgomery) Hiller, seven children were born, namely: John N., Pearl, wife of James Thompson, who lives in Jackson, Michigan; Alice, Archie, Claude and Maude, twins, and Janie. Maude is the wife of Oral Osborn and lives in Akron, Michigan.

John N. Hiller remained with his parents in Tuscola county, Michigan, until 1901, at which time he left for Akron, Michigan, where he had charge of the grocery department of Cook Brothers store. He remained in their employ for three years and then engaged in the lumber woods for some time, working in the camps during the winter and in the saw-mills during the summer. He represented the Mickelson-Hanson Lumber Company, of Lewiston, Michigan. He was employed in the hardware store of George E. Purple for a period of two years, in Edmore, Michigan, and then engaged in business on an independent basis, operating a grocery and restaurant for one year. This place was then sold and he was employed in the store of John Hanson for nearly one year, subsequently engaging with J. F. Snyder in the mercantile business for one year, also in Edmore, Michigan. Following this he represented the Fred Brunswick Company, of Muskegon, Michigan, on the road, but resigned with that firm to accept a position with the Stanton Candy Company, of Stanton, Michigan. He was later with the Asphalt Roofing Company, of West Saginaw, Michigan, as their traveling representative, covering the territory of Western Michigan and Northwestern Indiana. He represented this firm for nearly seven years, and then removed to Vestaburg where he opened his present business on April 10, 1915, carrying a large and complete line of dry goods and groceries.

On June 12, 1903, John N. Hiller was united in marriage to Blanch Gillette, daughter of Charles and Levine (Comstock) Gillette, and two children have blessed their union, Archie and Charles. Both children are students of the schools of Vestaburg, Michigan. Blanch Gillette is a native of Springport, Calhoun county, Michigan. John N. Hiller is a member of the Illinois Commercial Travelers Association, and is also a member of the Vestaburg lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has always taken great interest in the local elections, and actively represents the Republican party.

GEORGE IRVING BLUMBERG.

George Irving Blumberg, successful farmer and prominent in the public and official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Douglass township, this county, near his present farm, on July 8, 1871, a son of Charles W. and Martha (Steel) Blumberg, the former of whom died on June 19, 1909, the latter on February 11, 1909.

After the completion of his education in the public schools of Douglass township, this county, George Irving Blumberg lived on the home farm until after his marriage when, in 1892, he secured his present farm of forty acres, which he cleared and where he since has been successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On December 25, 1890, George Irving Blumberg was married to Elizabeth McLean, who was born in St. Joseph county, Indiana, on June 23, 1870, they becoming the parents of three children: Irving, who was born on November 1, 1898, and died on June 26, 1902; Raymond, September 26, 1903, and died on October 2, 1906, and Lillian, April 27, 1909, now living at home.

Elizabeth McLean is a daughter of Oscar and Emily (Smith) McLean, the former born on March 6, 1846, near Brantford, Ontario, Canada, a son of Eliad and Sofia (Blaisdall) McLean; the latter born in the same community, in 1849, a daughter of John P. and Sarah (Whitney) Smith. Oscar McLean received his education in the public schools of his native community, where he lived until about two years after his marriage, when he moved to St. Joseph county, Indiana, and there followed various lines of activity, for the next twelve years. He then came to Montcalm county, Michigan, and located on a farm of eighty acres which he cleared and improved, later adding forty acres of land, all of which he cultivated for

some time. Afterward, Mr. McLean sold all but forty acres of his land, cultivating this tract as a successful farmer until he was compelled to retire from active life, because of failing health, three years before his death which occurred on October 17, 1886. Emily, the widow of Oscar McLean, after the death of her husband, lived for several years on the home place with her children and then purchased property in Entrican, Montcalm county, where she now lives. Mr. and Mrs. McLean have honorable records as workers in the Methodist church, at Entrican. Oscar McLean, for many years, was an active member of the Good Templar Lodge, in Entrican.

George Irving Blumberg has taken an active part in the official life of Douglass township, Montcalm county, for many years having served as township clerk, for this township, during the greater part of fifteen years. Mr. Blumberg now is prominent in the affairs of the Republican party and is a recognized influence in the efforts and plans of this party. Mr. and Mrs. Blumberg are leading members of the Baptist church, at Entrican, they both being known for their work in this church, which Mr. Blumberg now is serving as a trustee. Mrs. Blumberg is a well-known Sunday-school teacher, and at one time served as superintendent of the Sunday-school in the Baptist church. She was treasurer of that church for fourteen years.

Fraternally, George Irving Blumberg is a member of the Entrican Lodge No. 43, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, an organization which he serves as recording secretary, and he also is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, at Entrican.

CHARLES W. BLUMBERG.

The late Charles W. Blumberg, who was a successful farmer of Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, to which region he came in 1870, where he was recognized as one of the most useful citizens, was born in Oakland county, Michigan, on December 6, 1838, a son of Michael and Almina (Hyde) Blumberg, natives of Schoharie county and of Seneca county, New York, respectively.

Michael Blumberg was a farmer and the operator of a saw-mill in Schoharie county, New York, where he lived until 1832, after which time he moved to Oakland county, Michigan. In Oakland county, Michigan, the wife of Michael Blumberg, whom he had married in New York, died, and some time

later, the elder Blumberg was married, secondly, to Almina Hyde, they becoming the parents of two sons, Charles W. and Walter H.

Charles W. Blumberg was seven years of age when he moved from Royal Oak township, Oakland county, Michigan, with his parents, to Canton, Wayne county, Michigan, where he secured his early education and then, at the age of thirteen years moved with his parents to Ingham county, Michigan, where he attended school for a short time.

When nineteen years of age, in 1857, Charles W. Blumberg was married to Martha Steel, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Gunderman) Steel. To the marriage of Charles W. and Martha Blumberg were born seven children: Charles Dennis, who was born on May 24, 1858; Friend William, February 16, 1860; Almina Margaret, March 7, 1864; Daniel Michael, October 16, 1865; George I., July 8, 1871; Mary E., November 25, 1895, and Clarence F., March 25, 1880.

Following his marriage, Charles W. Blumberg remained at home and superintended the cultivation of the home farm, until February 17, 1865, when he enlisted in Company B, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, for service in the Civil War. Ten days after his enlistment Mr. Blumberg was mustered into the United States Cavalry, his first active service being at a camp at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, later, at the Point of Rocks, on the Potomac, where he was stationed at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, being one of a number of recruits who were detailed to search for the assassin. Charles W. Blumberg, next, was ordered to Chapel Point, and from there to Alexandria, Virginia, where he became a part of the United States Regular army, with these troops going to Washington, D. C., where he took part in the Grand Review, at the end of the Civil War.

After the close of the Civil War, Charles W. Blumberg was ordered, with the troops of which he was a part, to the West for service on the frontier against the Indians. On their way to their new station Mr. Blumberg, with his comrades, journeyed by rail to Parkersburg, West Virginia, by boat to St. Louis, Missouri, where a part of the command was detailed to buy horses, the remainder, of which Mr. Blumberg was a part, continuing their journey to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, at which place the troops were properly equipped for a continuance of their journey to Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. Later, the Sixth Cavalry, of which Mr. Blumberg was a soldier, as a part of the command of General Connor, marched to a point about three hundred miles northwest of Ft. Laramie, locating along the Powder river, where the troops erected a fort and lived there for three weeks during which time they engaged in several skirmishes with the Indians, destroying their strongholds, and with

the aid of friendly Indians, compelled the hostile savages to return to their proper territory.

Some time later, Charles W. Blumberg was appointed a wagon-master of the train from Ft. Lawrence to Ft. Bridges, and afterward was assigned to the post at Salt Lake City, there Mr. Blumberg being appointed as assistant wagon-master. In this capacity, Charles W. Blumberg served satisfactorily until February 27, 1866, when he received his discharge and was mustered out of the service, he then returning to his home in Michigan, after a long journey which cost about three hundred dollars, as a result of poor transportation facilities of that day.

On reaching his home in Michigan, Mr. Blumberg resumed his duties as a farmer, purchasing a farm of eighty-one acres in DeWitt township, Clinton county, where he lived eighteen months and then moved to Olive township, Clinton county, where he lived as a general farmer on one hundred and twenty acres of land. Selling this farm at a profit, Mr. Blumberg, in 1870, came to Montcalm county and secured a farm in Douglass township, his first purchase of land in this township, amounting to two hundred and forty acres of land, an estate to which he added two hundred acres at a later time, all of which he cared for and cultivated as a successful farmer until such time as his boys started out in life he dividing with them, at the time of his giving up farming, he having but ninety acres left.

Charles W. Blumberg was prominently identified with the best interests of Montcalm county, Michigan, and was foremost in every movement which he thought calculated to the benefit of the community. Politically, Mr. Blumberg was always a Republican, and for eight years served as a supervisor of this township, as well as having served in the same capacity in Clinton county. Mr. Blumberg was greatly interested in school affairs and did much for the promotion of educational interests in Douglass township and Montcalm county.

Charles W. Blumberg and his wife were prominent in the affairs of the Baptist church in both Clinton and Montcalm counties, Michigan, Mr. Blumberg having filled the office as deacon of the church in Clinton county for nearly thirty years and he gave the land and assisted materially in the erection of the Baptist church in Douglass township, this county, also assisting with a church at McBride, Montcalm county.

Fraternally, Charles W. Blumberg was a member of Star Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, at Stanton, and was a prominent member of Osmer F. Cole Post No. 81, Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of which he was past post commander.

During the month of January, 1905, Charles W. Blumberg retired from his agricultural pursuits and moved to Stanton, Montcalm county, where he lived until the death of his wife, which occurred on February 11, 1909. After that time he lived with his children in Stanton in Douglass township, until June 19, of the same year, at which time he passed to the Great Beyond, just four months and eight days after his wife.

HENRY L. INGRAHAM.

Henry L. Ingraham, successful farmer and business man engaged in the operation of a saw-mill and feed-mill, in Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Montcalm county, on November 23, 1863, a son of Harvey and Amanda (Makecomber) Ingraham, natives of New York state, the former born in Onondaga county.

Harvey Ingraham spent his early days in his native county, after which he came with his parents, Warren Ingraham and wife, to Montcalm county, Michigan, and settled in Wolfsin Plains, at a point where Clear creek and Black creek come together. Here Harvey Ingraham lived on the home farm until after the death of Warren Ingraham, when Harvey Ingraham was married to Amanda Makecomber, they becoming the parents of two children: Henry L. and Albert, who died in 1904.

Harvey Ingraham was a lifelong mill man, a successful judge of lumber and operator of saw-mills in Pine township, at Langston, West Lakes and at Trufant. On December 25, 1890, Amanda, the wife of Harvey Ingraham, died, and some time later, Mr. Ingraham was married, secondly, to Mary Terry, there being no children born to this marriage. Harvey Ingraham died on June 28, 1915.

Henry L. Ingraham was reared in Montcalm county, Michigan, and educated in the public schools of this community. While yet a lad in school, he learned the trade of sawyer, in the saw-mills operated by his father, Mr. Ingraham at the same time aiding in the duties of the home farm. Following the completion of his education, Henry L. Ingraham spent some years on the home farm, after which he married and then engaged in the milling business, in Douglass township, successfully conducting his saw-mill until late in the year 1899, when he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, located in Douglass township, this county. Mr. Ingraham has improved his place

with a new house erected in 1904, with a new barn built in 1902, and has otherwise equipped his farm until now it is one of the desirable places for general agricultural pursuits to be found in the community. In addition to the agricultural pursuits conducted by Henry L. Ingraham, he operates a saw-mill and feed-mill on his farm.

On October 23, 1889, Henry L. Ingraham was united in marriage to Flora Perry, who was born on August 27, 1870, in Montcalm county, later moving with her parents to St. Joseph county, where after living five years she returned to Montcalm county. Henry L. and Flora Ingraham are the parents of eight children: Edna, born on March 6, 1891; Leon, December 7, 1893; Leo, March 27, 1897; Leonard, June 27, 1900; Henry, September 1, 1903; Evelyn, June 14, 1908; Erma, May 27, 1911, and died seven months later, and Harris Lauren, May 8, 1915.

Mrs. Ingraham was a daughter of John Flander and Adeline (Tiffany) Perry, natives of New York state, who spent their early days in their native state and following their marriage came to Montcalm county, Michigan, locating near Gowen, later moving to near Colon, St. Joseph county, Michigan, where they lived the remainder of their days. Mr. and Mrs. Perry were the parents of three children: Flora, Candis and Gertrude.

Henry L. Ingraham is one of the highly respected citizens of Douglass township, Montcalm county, one who has been active in the affairs of the Republican party, and a man who has been foremost in all movements for the betterment of conditions in this community.

THOMAS W. MUSSON.

Thomas W. Musson, a farmer of Belvidere township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is a native of England, born in Leicestershire, October 19, 1868, a son of Richard and Sarah Ann (Remington) Musson. Richard Musson was also born in the same place and shire on December 12, 1839, a son of William and Sarah (Headworth) Musson, both natives of England, who **never left their native land**. Richard Musson received his education in his boyhood home and was married in 1863 to Sarah Ann Remington. To their union were born six children, the youngest dying in infancy. The others are Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Ford, of Belvidere township; Thomas, Charles, Helen (Mrs. Truman Outman) and John, all of Belvidere township. Richard Musson and his family emigrated to this country in 1867. They landed

in New York and came directly to this state, locating in Kent county. On arriving in Grand Rapids Mr. Musson had but six cents in his pocket. He lived in Grand Rapids for six years and then went to Ionia county, where he also remained for six years. He then came to Belvidere township, this county, where he has made his permanent home. His farm of forty acres was wild land when he obtained it and was covered with a heavy growth of timber. There were then no roads through that section, and Mr. Musson improved his own land, helped to lay out and build roads and bridges and has contributed in no small measure to the general welfare of the township and county. Mrs. Musson died in 1878 while the family lived in Ionia. That was about two years before Mr. Musson became a citizen of Montcalm county. Mr. Musson married again in 1884, his bride being Mrs. Charlotte Hunt, born in Leicestershire, England, March 31, 1836, a daughter of John Headworth and Sarah Pierson, his wife. No children have been born to this union.

Richard Musson holds fraternal affiliation with the Order of Maccabees through the local lodge at Edmore, and while having long been affiliated with the Democratic party, he is more or less independent in politics, voting rather for the man than the party. Mr. Musson was reared as a farmer and has followed that vocation all his life. He farmed in Belvidere township from February, 1880, until 1908, when he left the farm and took up his residence in Edmore, practically retired from the active duties of life.

Thomas W. Musson received his education in the schools of Belvidere township and was reared as a farmer. He has passed practically all of his life in this township with the exception of eight years which he spent in the Upper Peninsula working in the timber, scaling logs and in the lumber and shingle mills.

On November 1, 1899, Thomas W. Musson was married to Nettie Russell, born in Ionia county, a daughter of William and Sadie Russell, and to that union were born four children: Alpha, Kenneth, Fern and Clifford. Mrs. Musson died on February 22, 1907, and Mr. Musson remarried in April of 1908, his bride being Nora Frye, born in Mecosta county, this state, daughter of Edward Frye. No children have been born to that union.

Mr. Musson carries on general farming on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He first came to Belvidere township in 1880 on February 15, and assisted his father in overcoming the disadvantages of a pioneer home. When nineteen years old he secured his first farm of forty acres and after his first marriage came to his present farm, where he has since resided. Mr. Musson is a staunch Republican and active in the ranks of that party.

For the last fifteen years he has held a township office of some kind, being supervisor for the last five years. He was a candidate for county clerk, but withdrew his name. In April of 1915 he was elected on the board of reviews for Belvidere township, with George Cole as second member, there being but the two. He was also a member of the school board for a number of years, and is a citizen who has taken more than an ordinary amount of interest in local matters.

Mr. Musson holds fraternal affiliation with the Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the blue lodge and chapter at Six Lakes and also a member of the Eastern Star. He is a stockholder in the Peoples Bank of Edmore and a member of the executive committee of the same institution. He is also a director, solicitor and adjustor in the Peoples Mutual Fire Insurance Company and agent for cyclone insurance.

HANS HANSEN.

Hans Hansen, successful farmer and stock raiser, and a man of prominence in the affairs of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Denmark, April 22, 1848, the son of Hans and Annie (Hansen) Nielsen, the former of whom died in Denmark, after which the latter was married to Nels Andersen.

Hans Hansen came to America in 1872, being twenty-four years of age at the time, and settled at Greenville, Montcalm county, where he lived for ten years, during that time Mr. Hansen having been employed in the mills of the community and on the farms of the locality. About the year 1882 Hans Hansen purchased eighty acres of land in section 4, Fairplain township, a place which this progressive farmer has improved extensively and to which he has added forty acres, until now Hans Hansen has one of the best improved and most desirable farms for general farming and stock raising to be found in the county. The beautiful farm of Mr. Hansen is known as "Evergreen Farm."

During the month of October, 1874, Hans Hansen was married to Carrie Olsen, a daughter of Hans Olsen and wife. To the marriage of Hans and Carrie Hansen were born the following children: Daniel and Alfred, who are deceased; Lawrence, who lives on a farm adjoining that of his father; and Harry, who lives in Fairplain township. Carrie, the wife of Hans Hansen, died, and in the year 1892 Mr. Hansen was married, sec-

ondly, to Stenia Hansen. Hans and Stenia Hansen are the parents of five children: Alfred, Anna, Helen and Hans, who live at home, and Hazel, who lives at Greenville.

Hans Hansen is one of the best-known fraternal men of Montcalm county, being a member of Evergreen Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Sheridan; a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, and is active in the affairs of the Danish Brotherhood, of Greenville.

For six years Hans Hansen has served Fairplain township as justice of the peace and he is a man whose efforts and activities in the interest of the community has won for him a host of friends. In politics, Mr. Hansen is independent of party.

HANS L. HANSEN.

Hans L. Hansen, who owns a splendid farm of two hundred and sixty acres in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Denmark, December 28, 1858. He is the son of L. Hansen, who spent all of his life in Denmark.

Hans L. Hansen was reared in his native country and educated in the public schools, which he attended until he was fourteen years of age. He worked on the farm for his father until he was twenty-three years old, when, having saved enough money, he came to the United States, locating in Greenville, Michigan, where he worked on farms in the summer and in lumber yards in the winter. After he had been in this country for five years he purchased a farm of eighty acres and, after his marriage, purchased the place where he now lives, to which he has added until he now owns one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Hansen can very deservedly be called a self-made man, having accumulated all of his possessions since coming to this country.

Hans L. Hansen was married to Cena Judson, who was also born in Denmark, and to this union have been born five children, Mary, Carl, Alice, Elva and Florence. All of these children are still single and living at home with their parents, and all have excellent educations, Elva being a graduate of the Greenville high school and a teacher in the public schools.

Politically, Mr. Hansen is a Republican, but has never cared to take an active part in politics, preferring to devote his time and attention to his extensive farming interests.

G. W. HARDY.

G. W. Hardy, a fruit grower, farmer and stockman, living on his eighty-acre farm one mile west of Stanton, Montcalm county, was born on March 15, 1881, in a saw-mill camp in Grand Travis county and was the son of Judson J. and Amy E. (Bennett) Hardy.

Judson Hardy and Amy Bennett were married in Hillsdale county on March 11, 1880, where they lived for a short time after which they came to Traverse City and Mr. Hardy engaged in the lumber business at Long lake, where he located his mill and later moved his family. They remained there for three years and then returned to Traverse City, where Mr. Hardy was engaged at the carpenter's trade for a short time, and then they took up their residence in Kalkaska county where Mr. Hardy was engaged in the saw-mill business for two years. He later moved to Stanton where he was engaged in a shingle-mill at what was then known as Fish creek, six miles east of Stanton. From there he went onto a farm two miles from Stanton. After farming on several different farms for some years, the family moved to Stanton where they lived for three years. At this time G. W. Hardy was thirteen years of age and the father took a claim of forty acres in Mecosta county where the family took up their residence. The family had been in their new home but a short time when the father was taken ill and the family remained for a time with relatives at McBride. Some months later Mrs. Hardy took her husband to Sheridan, where he died on December 25, 1895.

Judson Hardy and wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living: G. W., the subject of the sketch; Ed C., a lumber dealer at Stanton; Charles S., a telephone construction foreman; Pearl Claude, at Lansing, where he conducts a barber shop; Jesse B. and Ovid O. are in the dray business at Stanton, and Orvilla M. is the wife of Ray Harens, a carpenter at Stanton.

G. W. Hardy, after the death of his father, went to work on a dairy farm at five dollars per month. The neighbors were all very kind and the family was assisted in many ways. The mother engaged in work to assist in the support of her family and was aided by G. W., who after leaving the dairy, was engaged by F. J. Lucas for three years. The family then moved onto a farm one mile east of Stanton where they remained for two years.

On November 24, 1900, Mr. Hardy was united in marriage to Helen A. Kramer, the daughter of Charles and Dora (Smith) Kramer. Soon after the marriage they, with the Hardy family, moved onto the farm of F. J.

Lucas, and G. W. Hardy managed the farm in the summer and worked in the elevator in the winter. They remained here for two years when they moved into Stanton, where Mr. Hardy was engaged by Mr. Lucas in the elevator. In 1903 he took charge of the elevator at McBride where he remained until ill health caused him to resign and he later bought the farm where he now lives.

Fraternally, Mr. Hardy is a member of the Stanton Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at McBride, and is a past noble grand. He is also a member of the encampment, as well as the Free and Accepted Masons. Mrs. Hardy is a member of the Rebekahs and is past noble grand of the lodge at McBride.

WILLIAM H. MILLS.

William H. Mills, the popular proprietor of the Winter Inn at Greenville, this county, is a native son of that thriving town, having been born there on April 18, 1873, son of James C. and Mary Ann (Bates) Mills, long prominent residents of Greenville, the former of whom was one of the earliest merchants of that town and for many years one of the foremost citizens of the place.

James C. Mills was born just outside the corporate limits of the city of Dublin, in Ireland, in 1837, son of Robert Mills, a native of Scotland who had settled in Ireland. When he was a babe in arms, less than one year old, his parents crossed the water and settled in Canada, and there James C. Mills lived with his parents until he was thirteen years of age, at which time he ran away from home and went to Toronto, where he entered the employ of a tailor with the view to learning the trade. He remained there for some time and then, while still a boy, came across the line into Michigan and stopped at Pontiac, where he was for some years employed as a tailor in the big clothing store of C. R. Mabley. While thus engaged Mr. Mills made himself thoroughly familiar with the general tailoring and clothing business and presently went to Portland, this state, where he opened a clothing store and was there engaged in business for several years, at the end of which time he moved to Ionia, where he formed a partnership, under the firm name of Hudson & Mills, in the clothing business. After awhile this firm decided to open a branch store at Greenville, this county, a new town just getting well under headway at that time, and Mr. Mills came by wagon through the woods with a stock of goods and opened his store in the promising village, thus

being one of the very earliest merchants in Greenville. After awhile the partnership of Hudson & Mills was dissolved and a new firm, Bennett & Mills, was created, which after awhile also dissolved, after which Mr. Mills continued in business alone, long being regarded as one of the leading merchants of the place. He was thus engaged in business at Greenville for about thirty-five years, or until his death on February 27, 1912, a long and honorable business career, and his four sons were brought up in the same line of business.

To James C. and Mary Ann (Bates) Mills five children were born, as follow: Etta, wife of M. E. Glass, of Greenville; James H., of Portland, Oregon; Fred R., of Detroit, this state; Wesley J., of Hudson, this state, and William H., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch. The mother of these children died in 1896 and James C. Mills married, secondly, Lizzie Bell, who is now living at Shanty Bay, close to Berry, Ontario, Canada. James C. Mills was a charter member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, at Greenville, and was also a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, at the same place, and in the affairs of both of these organizations took a warm interest.

William H. Mills was reared at Greenville, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that city, and received as well a careful business training in his father's store. As a young man he became a traveling salesman for the Lasser Cigar Company, of Manistee, and for several years was engaged as a commercial traveler, during which time his services were engaged by several commercial concerns. In 1894 he married Cora M. Matthews, who died three years later, and in 1905 he gave up traveling and settled down in the town of his birth, engaging in the hotel business, and has ever since then been thus engaged, doing very well in that line, having become one of the most popular hotel men in this part of the state, his long service as a traveling man having given him a thorough acquaintance of the needs of the traveling public, down to the minutest details. On January 3, 1912, Mr. Mills married, secondly, Mrs. Jennie C. Carney, widow of Frank S. Carney, of Bay City, and in July, 1915, he became proprietor of the Winter Inn at Greenville and is now making that one of the most popular hotels in this whole section.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills take an active part in the social activities of the town and are held in high regard by their many friends. Mrs. Mills is an attendant at the Congregational church and Mr. Mills is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9 Knights of Pythias, at Greenville, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of this organization.

GEORGE BRAMAN.

Michigan as a state ranks high in the history of pioneers, not only on account of the achievements of its earliest citizens but also because of the force of character of these first inhabitants who faced privation and endured hardships to transform the wilderness in which they settled into one of the most productive regions of the country. Among those who stand high in the agricultural life of Montcalm county, Michigan, is George Braman, a native of England, who came to Michigan as early as 1861.

The subject of this sketch was born in Lincolnshire, England, September 13, 1849. He is the son of James and Ann Braman, who were natives of an agricultural community in England. When George Braman was eleven years old his parents came to this country for permanent residence, four months after the subject of this sketch had arrived here. His parents settled in Jackson county, Michigan. Later the subject of this sketch went to make his home with an uncle and in his childhood was obliged to work at hard labor so that he could go to school for very short periods only. His treatment at the hands of the uncle just mentioned was of so severe a character that in the end the boy ran away to escape the misery. He accidentally broke his leg, which rendered him helpless for some time. When he recovered, he worked at various occupations until he was fifteen years old, supporting himself. At the age of eighteen he went into the timber regions of the state and worked at the occupation of lumbering for two years. At the end of that time he turned his attention to the interest of general farming with which he became prominently identified later.

On March 1, 1867, the marriage of George Braman to Mary A. Bancroft took place. A sketch of the life of George Braman would scarcely be complete without some reference to his wife and her parents who proved to be of such valuable and kind assistance to him in his early struggles for success. Mary Bancroft was a native of Lincolnshire, England, where she was born on November 28, 1846. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Bancroft, the former of whom came to America in 1850. He settled first in Ohio where he remained two years before coming to Montcalm county, Michigan. In this county he entered a government claim on forty acres of land in the southwest corner of Crystal township. His deed for the land was dated November 5, 1853. Mr. Bancroft added to his possessions from time to time until he owned the whole southern half of section 31, in Crystal township. His pioneer home was built in one of the great forests which were so common

to this section of the country at that time. Wild animals were so numerous that he could hunt from his window and he often told of shooting deer from the front steps of his home. He had the distinction of being one of the very first men to plan a settlement in this part of the county. His daughter, Mary Bancroft, who became the wife of the subject of this sketch, was a remarkable woman in many ways and proved to be a very capable assistant to her husband. She was devoted to the home, which she had made extremely attractive and took a keen interest in the education of her children, whose names follow: Lizzie, Charles H., Adelbert J., Manda, John W. and George.

After his marriage George Braman lived in Jackson county and later in Washtenaw county where he passed two years. He then took charge of the farm belonging to his father-in-law, which was located in the southwestern part of Crystal township, Montcalm county. During this time he bought a farm of his own consisting of forty acres located at a distance of two miles from the farm on which he worked. He increased his land purchases until he was owner of two hundred acres, most of which he cleared without assistance. In 1887 he built a hay barn which was the finest in construction in the county. In 1895 he erected a beautiful brick residence which was surrounded by attractive shrubbery and landscape gardening. He made this his home until the death of his wife, which occurred on July 28, 1913. Since that time he has been living with his children. During his residence in this part of the county he has taken part in the development which changed the forest tracts into fertile farms. One of his specialties was the rearing of high grade stock. He is a member of the Methodist church, for whose welfare his wife was also an ardent worker.

CHRIST F. HAACK.

Christ F. Haack is an esteemed citizen of Montcalm county, Michigan, who lived on his well-directed farm near the town of Coral. He is a Christian gentleman and a liberal supporter of the Congregational church of which he is a member. He was born in Schonefeld, Germany, on September 3, 1847, and is the son of Christ F. Haack, Sr., who married in Germany and immigrated to America, locating near Howard City, Michigan, where he remained until his death. He was the father of three children, Christ F. being the only surviving one.

Christ F. Haack was thirty-six years of age when he immigrated to the

United States and was the possessor of forty dollars in gold upon his arrival. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land which is now well improved. He married Christena Detzlough and to them have been born three children, namely: Fred, who is thirty-five years of age, and living under the parental roof; John, a farmer who is living on the farm which his brother Fred owns, and Hulda, who married George Shoup and is a resident of this county, in Maple Valley township. The family are members of the Congregational church in which denomination Christ F. Haack is treasurer. Politically, he is a Republican and takes great interest in all elections. He is well known in this section and has many friends throughout the county.

JOHN MADSEN.

John Madsen, one of the leading business men and enterprising citizens of Trufant, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on October 2, 1883, in Montcalm county, and is the son of Andrew and Christine Madsen. His parents were born in Denmark and immigrated to this country after their marriage, locating in Montcalm township, of this county, where they are engaged in agricultural pursuits. They are the parents of seven children whose names follow: Elwood, a telegraph operator at Everett, Michigan; Alexander, also a telegraph operator, stationed at Greenville, Michigan; John, Ella, now living in Chicago, Illinois; Sarah, Daisy, who resides in Detroit, Michigan, and Ernest, who is at home.

John Madsen was reared on the home farm and received his education in the public schools of this locality and in the Ferris Institute, of Big Rapids, Michigan, where he was a student of pharmaceuticals. He passed the state examinations and is a registered pharmacist and at one time served Peck Brothers, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, as prescription clerk. In June, 1907, John Madsen purchased the stock of drugs in his present place of business and has made a most gratifying success of the undertaking.

On June 19, 1913, John Madsen was married to Elizabeth Johnson, a native of Trufant, Michigan, and to them has been born one child, Marcus, who was born on April 20, 1914. John Madsen stands high in fraternal and civil relations and is a member of Trufant Lodge No. 456, Free and Accepted Masons, and is a thirty-second degree Mason as well as a Shriner. In his political affiliations he is a member of the Republican party and very active for all issues which meet with his approval.

ADELBERT WORDEN.

Among the well-known farmers and prominent citizens of Bushnell township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Adelbert Worden, who was born in Hartland township, Niagara county, New York, on August 8, 1852, the son of Alex and Mary (Hoddins) Worden, the former born near Albion, New York, the latter in Yorkshire, England, from which country she came to America, with her parents, when she was a child, and after some time of residence in Quebec, Canada, went to New York state, where she was married to Alex Worden. Alex Worden was a carpenter, who devoted a part of his time to agricultural pursuits, he having lived in New York state until 1858, when he moved to Ionia county, Michigan, and bought forty acres of land in Berlin township, a place which the elder Worden improved and where he lived as a pioneer farmer until 1860, when he moved to a rented farm, near Ionia. Two years later, Alex Worden returned to his original farm in Berlin township, and lived there until 1863, when he bought eighty acres of land in section 16, Berlin township, a place which was his home until his death on May 17, 1864. Following the death of her husband, Mary Worden lived on the home farm until 1882, when she moved to Bushnell township, Montcalm county, and made her home with a son. Mary, the widow of Alex Worden, died in Fairplain township, during the year 1902. Alex and Mary Worden were the parents of three children, Adelbert, Thomas and Anna, who died in 1865.

Adelbert Worden received his education in the public schools of Ionia county, Michigan, after which he became a farmer, being employed on the farms of the vicinity, together with the giving of a part of his time to the carpenter trade for some years, and then Mr. Worden purchased his present farm in section 32, Bushnell township, where he is now successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits, on one of the well improved and modern farms of the community.

On November 19, 1874, Adelbert Worden was married to Mrs. Alice (Hunter) Sherwood, who was the widow of Robert Sherwood. To this marriage has been born one daughter, Margaret. Margaret Worden received her early education in the public schools of her native county, after which she was a student at the Sheridan high school for two years and then she attended and graduated from the Ionia County Normal School, she later, for three terms, being a student of special work at the Mt. Pleasant Normal College, an institution from which she graduated, with a life teacher's certificate, in

June, 1915. Margaret Worden is now a teacher at Tawas City, Iosco county, Michigan. Mrs. Alice Worden died on April 19, 1915, mourned by her husband, daughter and a host of friends.

Adelbert Worden is an active member of the Methodist church, of Fenwick, and takes an important part in the work and worship of this church. Mr. Worden is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, an organization of which his wife was a well-known and leading member of the Ladies of the Maccabees.

In the political life of Bushnell township Adelbert Worden has taken an important place, having served his township as drainage commissioner and for three terms as justice of the peace. Mr. Worden is a Republican.

FRED B. READER.

Fred B. Reader is known for his sterling qualities of character, his progressive ideas and keen business judgment. He was born on October 27, 1870, in Amboy township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, and is the son of Alfred and Angelina (Bailey) Reader. Alfred Reader was a native of Ohio and the son of Thomas and Anna (Dives) Reader, both of Norfolk, England. They were reared, educated and married in their native country and immigrated to America in the early days. They took passage on a sailing vessel and were six weeks making the trip. Upon their arrival in the United States they located in Ohio, where Thomas Reader followed his trade of shoemaker in connection with that of stone-mason. Alfred Reader followed farming most of his life in Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he located after leaving his home in Ohio. His death occurred in Hillsdale county, as did that of his wife. The maternal grandparents of Fred B. Reader were Ruggles and Levanthia Bailey, natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. Alfred Reader was three times married, Fred B. Reader being the only child born of the first union. Angelina (Bailey) Reader, first wife of Alfred Reader, died on October 27, 1870, at the age of nineteen years. Royal Reader was the only child born of the third union.

Fred B. Reader was reared and educated in Woodbridge township, Hillsdale county, Michigan, by his grandparents, Ruggles Bailey and wife. He received his training as a farmer and in 1900 located in Richland township, Montcalm county, where he was employed as a farm hand and then engaged in farming nearly two years at which time he returned to Hillsdale county,

engaging in pursuits for three years. He then came to Vestaburg, and engaged in the hardware and implement business for two years, disposing of his stock to again engage in farming on a partially improved forty-acre tract of land in Richland township. After two years he returned to the hardware and implement business, which was sold in November, 1915. He contemplates building an automobile garage in the near future, for the purpose of keeping active in the business world.

On December 25, 1891, Fred B. Reader was united in marriage to Mrs. Elva (Hilliard) White, daughter of Benjamin and Nancy (Jenkins) Hilliard, and four children blessed their union: Lester, who married Mildred Guyman and is now living on a farm in Washtenaw county, Michigan; Lowell, deceased; Otis and Gerald, at home.

Fred B. Reader is a member of the Vestaburg Lodge No. 352, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has held each office connected therewith. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, of Vestaburg, Michigan. In the educational interests of the community he has served two terms on the school board, and was a member of the board of review in Richland township, of this county. In 1912, he was appointed as deputy sheriff and is still active in that capacity. In politics he is an active and stanch Republican and show great interest in all local elections. He was nominated for township treasurer in 1916.

JOHN M. BROWN.

John M. Brown, a farmer of Belvidere township and agent for the King automobile, was born in Oakland county, close to the city of Pontiac, this state, December 7, 1860, a son of William A. and Nancy H. (Close) Brown. His father was born in New Jersey, February 8, 1828, a son of Freeman Brown, who was also born in that state. When William Brown was a boy of seven years, his parents left their native home and started for this section of the country. They settled in Oakland county, this state, where William Brown grew to manhood and received such education as the limited opportunities of the time afforded. William married in Oakland county, his wife, Nancy Close, being a native of New York, born on March 4, 1835, and died on October 11, 1913. There were three children in William Brown's family, Anna being the eldest. She is the wife of John M. Sterns of Greenville, this state; John M. is the second child, and there was another son, Eddie, who died at the age of two years.

When John M. Brown was six years of age, his father brought his family to Montcalm county, locating in Montcalm township. He secured eighty acres of government land, which cost him one hundred dollars, and he was forced to cut a trail for three miles in order to get to it. William A. Brown bravely set about the task of clearing up his land, had it all improved and was following general farming at the time of his death on November 21, 1912, at the age of eighty-five years. He was drafted for military service in the Civil War, but bought his release.

John M. Brown received his education in the schools of Montcalm township, this county, and was reared a farmer. About 1900 he came to Belvidere township and located on his present farm of eighty acres. He has greatly improved the place since taking possession of it, erected buildings, etc., and now carries on general farming.

John M. Brown has been twice married. His first wife was Eva Sevilla Sterns, with whom he was united in marriage on January 15, 1882. She was a daughter of Joseph and Sarah Sterns and to their union were born six children, namely: Earl Miller, born on February 27, 1883, is a farmer of Belvidere township. He married Edith Kancig and they have one child, Addie Eva. Belle May was born on October 27, 1884, and died on August 11, 1892. Willie Atley was born on October 29, 1886, and died March 16, 1912. He left a widow who was Florence Balingier and she resides at Lakeview where she instructs in music and English in the high school. Anna L. was born on January 30, 1889, and is the wife of Irwin Dawes, a farmer of Belvidere township. They have two children, Sarah and Mabel. Mertie E. was born on October 18, 1891, and died on February 19, 1892. Janie E., born on October 18, 1896, is the wife of Lawrence Warner, a farmer of Mecosta county, this state. They have two children, James and Evelyn. Mr. Brown was married, secondly, on December 24, 1912, at Six Lakes, to Mrs. Flora Ellen (Smith) Wyble, who was born at Wabash, Indiana, December 16, 1870, a daughter of Peter C. and Esther A. (Unger) Smith. Peter C. was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and his wife was born and reared in Wabash county, Indiana. Both were of German descent, Peter C. being the son of Jacob Smith, who was born at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, and Esther A. Unger was a daughter of William Unger. Peter C. Smith enlisted in the Civil War and served for several months when he was stricken with typhoid fever and after a serious illness was honorably discharged on account of disability. There were eight children in the family of Mrs. Brown, she being the eldest. The others are Dolla Etta, Rose Belle, Samuel Ells-

worth, William Edward, Mary Gertrude, Lyle E. and one who died in infancy. Mr. Brown has no children by his second marriage, but Mrs. Brown has three by her first husband. These are Ford Elmer, Donn Ellsworth and Glenn Wyble, all living at the home of Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown is active in the ranks of the Republican party and at one time was a member of the highway commission. At one time he was a member of the Maccabees and also the Gleaners, but takes no active interest in those orders now. He is an active member of the United Brethren church and formerly served as steward.

In addition to his duties as agriculturist, Mr. Brown handles the King automobile and is known as a hustler and a man of sound business principles. His farm home is a fine modern place with all comforts and he is one of the progressive and representative citizens of the county.

EDWARD J. BOWMAN.

Among the citizens of Montcalm county who stand distinctively representative in their chosen spheres of endeavor is Edward J. Bowman, of Greenville, leading member of the bar and honored citizen. Mr. Bowman was born in Kent county, Michigan, on November 30, 1871, the son of Nelson B. and Nancy (Bowman) Bowman, both of whom are now deceased. Nelson Bowman, who was a miller by vocation, moved to Greenville in 1881, residing here until his death.

Edward J. Bowman received his education in the Greenville public schools, graduating from the high school in 1888. Then, for two years, he held a clerical position with the Grand Trunk railroad, but, ambitious for larger things, he turned his attention to the law and entered the office of Judge John Lewis, where he pursued his legal studies. He was admitted to the bar on December 5, 1892, and has since been engaged in the active practice of his profession. Mr. Bowman served five terms as city attorney of Greenville and is serving his second term as a member of the school board. He served as first assistant United States district attorney for the western district of Michigan, under District Attorney Fred C. Wetmore, following which he served as district attorney for nine months. He is a keen and sagacious lawyer and holds a high place in the estimation of his brethren of the legal profession.

An ardent Republican in political views, Mr. Bowman is an ex-president

of the Greenville Republican Club and former secretary of the State League of Republican Clubs, and has contributed in a very definite degree to the success of the party in this section of the state. A man of broad views and high ideals, he has stood staunchly for the best things in life and has exerted a wholesome influence in his community.

On the 19th of October, 1898, Edward J. Bowman was married to Alice Cowin, the daughter of John Cowin and wife, of Greenville, and to them has been born a son, Edward Llewellyn, on April 6, 1903.

WILLIAM W. WANINK.

William W. Wanink is a man of fine impulses and sterling worth, and his residence in the community has been a dominant factor for good. His birth occurred on February 27, 1878, in Rockford, Michigan, and he is the son of Herman and Marie (DeHamer) Wanink. Herman Wanink was born in Gelterland, Holland, and the birth of his wife occurred in Zeeland, of the same country. Herman Wanink was married in his native land but his first wife died without issue, and he was married to his second wife after coming to America.

William W. Wanink is the third child born of his parents' union, there being five, and received his education in the district schools of his immediate neighborhood. He was reared on the place which he now owns, in section 2, of Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and has always resided here, coming into possession of the farm at the death of his father. He has been an active worker in local Republican politics and is now serving as township treasurer, and has also served as school director of Pine township. His fraternal relations are with the Knights of the Maccabees and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On June 8, 1905, in Pine township, Montcalm county, Michigan, William W. Wanink and Cora Beigle were united in marriage and of their union six children were born, four of whom are now living. The names of the remaining children are as follow: Treva, born on December 19, 1908; Lyle, March 23, 1910; Laura, March 13, 1912, and Wayne, whose birth occurred on May 30, 1915. The other two children died in infancy. Cora (Beigle) Wanink was born in Douglass township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the

daughter of John and Lucina (Tucker) Beigle. John Beigle was a native of Percy, Northumberland county, Ontario, Canada. His wife was a native of Ohio. John Beigle located in Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1871, the Tuckers coming here from Wisconsin where they had previously moved in 1859. They were among the first settlers in Sydney township, of this county.

HENRY C. BEHRENWALD.

Henry C. Behrenwald, one of the worthy representatives of the agricultural interests of Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on June 17, 1873, in this county, and is the son of Frank and Sophia (Paepke) Behrenwald, both natives of Germany, who immigrated to America when they were young. They were married in this county and lived here until the death of Frank Behrenwald, at which time the widow removed to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she maintains a residence. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are living, all in Montcalm county, Michigan. Their names follow: Henry, Frank, George, Carl and William.

Henry C. Behrenwald received his preliminary education in the common schools of Cato township, Montcalm county, Michigan, graduating from the Lakeview high school, in Lakeview, Michigan, after which he took a business course in the Ferris Institute, in Big Rapids, Michigan. He was a student in this institution for a period of two years, after which he taught school for six years in Montcalm county and then returned to the farm. In 1905, he purchased two hundred acres of land in section 33, of Cato township, of this county, and in 1911 invested in one hundred and sixty acres more, in section 28, making this last property his home. He is now one of the largest resident landowners in the township, and his farm is one of the best improved and managed places in this locality. In national politics he is favorable to the Republican party, but in local elections he votes for the best man. In his religious affiliations he is a member of the German Lutheran church, as is also his wife.

On April 18, 1912, in this county, Henry C. Behrenwald and Martha Kraning were united in marriage, and of their union one child was born, Arthur, whose birth occurred on April 30, 1913. Martha (Kraning) Behrenwald was born in Germany, and is the daughter of August and Augusta (Waldo) Kraning, who came to America when she was but five years of age.

LEWIS L. BISSELL.

A retired merchant and one of the best-known citizens of Lakeview and Montcalm county, Michigan, is Lewis L. Bissell, who was born in Broome county, New York, July 11, 1831, the son of Solomon H. and Wealthy (Janes) Bissell, natives of Hebron, Connecticut, and of old Yankee stock. About 1836 the Bissell family came west to Michigan, locating in Macomb county, where they were among the first settlers. The father was a cabinet-maker by trade and followed that occupation after coming to Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Solomon H. Bissell were the parents of seven children, of whom Lewis L. was the fourth.

Lewis L. Bissell received his education in the common schools of his home township and, while still a boy, learned the carpenter trade which he followed until about 1868, at which time he came to Montcalm county, locating at Greenville, where he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with Henry Seaman. About 1875 they moved their stock of goods to Lakeview, which was then a new town and in which they were the first merchants. Some time during the first year in Lakeview, Mr. Bissell bought out Mr. Seaman's interest in the store and conducted it alone for three years, when he sold the entire stock to Mr. Seaman. Two and one-half years later, Mr. Bissell bought the store and kept it for several years, when he again sold out and started a new store with Mr. Call as a partner. He continued in this partnership until he retired from active business.

When Lewis L. Bissell first came to Montcalm county, Ionia was the nearest railroad point for several years, and he was compelled to have all of his stock hauled from there. He made arrangements with teamsters at Ionia to haul the goods to Greenville and Mr. Bissell himself brought it from Greenville to Lakeview. The country at that time was nearly all wilderness and an old corduroy road was laid from Greenville to Lakeview, it taking nearly a half day to make the trip between the two points. On account of the scarcity of stores in those days, Mr. Bissell's store was necessarily one of general merchandise, including hardware, drugs, clothing and groceries.

Lewis L. Bissell was married in 1857 in Memphis, Macomb county, to Sarah McKeeby, who was born in New York, the daughter of William and Lois McKeeby. To this union have been born three children: Lora, who married Truman R. French and lives in San Diego, California, has one child, Linton; Allie, deceased, who married William Bunker and was the mother of two children, Gladys and L. G., and Blanche, who married Judson Seeley

and lives in Billings, Montana. The mother of these children died in January, 1872, and on May 30, 1876, Mr. Bissell was married, secondly, to E. Addie Miller, who was born in Washtenaw county, the daughter of Dudley and Rebecca (Jullett) Miller, both natives of New York. The Miller family was one of the oldest in the state of New York and Dudley Miller's father went from there to Canada and thence to Michigan, being the first man to build a house on the present site of Detroit. To the second marriage of Mr. Bissell there have been born two daughters, Maud M. and Laudra L. Maud M. has been a teacher since she was seventeen years of age and is now conducting a private school in Ann Arbor in partnership with a Miss Waples, the school being known as the Waples-Bissell School. Miss Maud is also an accomplished musician, playing the harp and other instruments with great skill, often taking part in concert work. She is much interested in real estate and conducts a real estate office in Ann Arbor. Laudra L. married Harry Waheman, of Pontiac, and has one child, Irene L. She also taught school before her marriage.

Mr. Bissell and his family are members of the Church of Christ, Scientist, and are the only members of this denomination in Lakeview. Fraternally, Mr. Bissell is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, helping to organize the lodge in Lakeview, of which he was the first master. He is also a Royal Arch Mason. Politically, he is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in politics, having held several town and township offices. For the past eight years he has held the office of township treasurer, and for the past twenty years has been a justice of the peace.

CLARENCE A. NOAH.

Clarence A. Noah, of Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is one of the farmers of this section who have been very active in local politics, expending both time and money for their cause. Clarence A. Noah was born on June 21, 1861, in the locality of Nevins lake, Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan. He is the son of J. H. and Emaline (Amsbury) Noah, who were the parents of five children, Clarence being the eldest. He was reared on the home farm and educated in the district schools of his native township, remaining at home until he reached his majority. At that time he was employed by his uncle, John Noah, in a two-years service, receiving his pay by the month. On June 17, 1884, Clarence A. Noah was united in marriage to Armeta Bisbie, daughter of Alman Bisbie, and to this union three children have been born: Leah, Floyd and Merland. Leah is a graduate

of the Greenville Business College and is now employed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a stenographer. Floyd is at home. Merland is a graduate of the Sidney high school. The mother of these children, Armeta (Bisbie) Noah, is a graduate of Valparaiso University and followed the vocation of teacher before her marriage. After his marriage, Clarence A. Noah rented his Grandfather Noah's farm for two years and then worked on the farm which he now owns for a period of two years. This place is called "Poplar Lane Farm," and is located one-half mile north of Sidney, Michigan. It consists of eighty acres, all well improved.

Clarence A. Noah is a member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners and has been the secretary and treasurer of this order for the past six years. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party, and is at present serving his community in the capacity of township clerk.

JAMES WILLAN ROBINSON.

James Willan Robinson, merchant and landowner of Montcalm county, Michigan, as well as the holder of interests in the West, is well known throughout this section. His birth occurred on September 11, 1855, near Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, and he is the son of Watson and Elizabeth (Livick) Robinson. Watson Robinson was a native of Leeds, England, and immigrated to Canada when seven years of age. He was reared and educated in Canada and was the father of seven children, three of whom are now living. He died in 1900, at the age of ninety years. Elizabeth (Livick) Robinson was born in Cumberland, England, and was a mere infant when she located in Canada. She died in 1877, at the age of sixty years. Their three surviving children are: Thomas, now living in Canada; Mrs. A. J. West, of Aberdeen, Washington, and James Willan.

James Willan Robinson was but four years of age when he was brought to Saginaw, Saginaw county, Michigan, where he was reared and educated. On October 26, 1878, he was married to Anna Bryant, daughter of George and Agnes (Cameron) Bryant, and four children have been born of this union: Watson B., John L., Willan J. and Thomas Arnold. Watson B. married Dorita McElhimey and they have one child, James. They reside in New York City where Watson B. is an attorney-at-law. John L. is employed in an automobile factory in Alma, Michigan. Willan J. is a merchant of Aberdeen, Washington. He married Evalena Montieth and they have one

child, Ruth. Thomas Arnold is a student of Columbia University, in New York City. The mother of this family was born in Canada but was reared in Michigan.

James Willan Robinson located in Vestaburg, Montcalm county, Michigan, in September, 1879, where he conducted a general store for twenty-one years, also operating a lumber business in connection. He removed to Alma, Michigan, where he now resides, in 1903, conserving his local interests to his agricultural holdings in this section. In his fraternal relations, he is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons, in Alma, Michigan. In politics, he votes independently and has served as township supervisor of Richland township for four years, as well as in Jonesfield township, Saginaw county. He also served as a member of the Legislature, in the session of 1887, representing the eastern district of Montcalm county.

JUDGE FRANCIS NELSON.

Judge Francis Nelson, one of the most notable and noteworthy residents of Cedar Lake, Montcalm county, Michigan, was the fifth of ten children born to the union of Josiah and Lucy (Rin) Nelson, his birth occurring on July 15, 1808, in Middlefield, Otsego county, New York. Josiah Nelson was born on September 9, 1773, in Massachusetts, and was of Scotch-Irish descent, his father having come from Ireland to New York. This Irish father was a Protestant and an Orangeman and served in the War of the Revolution. The father of Josiah Nelson passed away in Middlefield, Otsego county, New York. Josiah Nelson was a wagon and carriage manufacturer of Middlefield, New York, later removing his business to Seneca county in 1812, and thence to Niagara county, New York in 1826. He was an Anti-Federalist of the early days. His death occurred on December 4, 1847, in Lockport, New York. His wife, Lucy (Rin) Nelson, was born on October 22, 1778, in Connecticut, and was of English-Welsh descent and a Presbyterian in her religious faith. She died on June 13, 1857, in Mexico, New York.

Francis Nelson was instructed as an agriculturist at an early age, remaining with his parents until twenty-two years of age, at which time he engaged in the lumber business and learned the practical work of sawyer. He operated a mill for his brother for a short time but soon after his marriage removed to Michigan. In 1833 he was married to Deborah Cotton, daughter

of Luke Cotton, and of this union six children were born. Deborah (Cotton) Nelson was a native of Batavia, New York, and her birth occurred on February 18, 1815. She was a woman of rare ability and personality and her life was expended in tender service to others and in self-sacrifice for those she loved.

Francis Nelson and his family removed to Palmyra, Michigan, in the fall of 1835, traveling by steamer up Lake Erie to Toledo, Ohio, and from there by team to their destination. It was here that they buried their first-born, a child of eighteen months, and where, later, the father himself was laid to rest. While a resident of this community Francis Nelson operated a mill for three years and then purchased a farm in Madison township, Lenawee county, Michigan, whereon he built a log house and proceeded to clear and cultivate the land. He was always active in politics and a Whig of the old school and was elected as justice of the peace. He was also a prominent member of the Methodist church and his latch-string was always out to ministers of every faith. After some years he sold his farm and purchased eighty acres in Medina township, Lenawee county, in 1848, remaining until 1854, at which time he found it expedient to seek new fields in order to rid himself of a burden of debt and to provide for his growing family. The farm was accordingly disposed of and the family removed by team to Gratiot county, Michigan, where one hundred and sixty acres of government land was purchased in what was then Cambria township, but which is now known as Arcadia township. They arrived at their new destination in October, 1854, having to cut a trail through the forest the last three or four miles. On this place a small clearing was made and a log house was erected, and here were made the first boards ever manufactured in the county, using a pit saw. He was among the first settlers in Gratiot county, his location being in the midst of the Chippewa Indians. He was chosen supervisor at the first election ever held in Arcadia township, and was very active in the county-seat controversy, being instrumental in making the town of Ithaca, Michigan, the county seat on February 28, 1856. He also helped to organize the county into townships.

In the fall of 1857 Francis Nelson was elected as probate judge of Gratiot county and served in this responsible position for three terms of four years each, holding court each month of the twelve years. He was offered the re-nomination, which he declined. While holding this office his wife passed away, on August 15, 1874. They were the parents of six children, whose names follow: William S., Wilbur (deceased), Theodore

(deceased), Sybil, Mrs. Titus J. Andrews, of Alma, Michigan, and Mary, who died in 1875. Mrs. Andrews now lives in the state of Washington. The mother of these children was descended from a long line of eminent clergy, the most notable ancestor being John Cotton, of Boston, England. He was an object of persecution from Archbishop Land, during the reign of Charles I. From these trials he fled to Boston, Massachusetts, which town was named in honor of his old home in England. He was a warm friend of Oliver Cromwell and was the grandfather of Cotton Mather, the distinguished New England divine.

In 1876 Judge Francis Nelson was married to his second wife, Mrs. Ann Burgess, widow of Russell Burgess, of Arcadia. She died in December, 1889. In 1864 Judge Francis Nelson embraced the faith of the Seventh-Day Adventists and became an elder and leader in that denomination, and has written and published several pamphlets in defense of their doctrine. He was the most impartial judge the county ever had and few men had a better understanding of the law than did this man, of blameless character and commanding influence. He helped to build the first court house, and was one of the three partners who erected the first saw- and grist-mill in the county. In 1879 he located in Home township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where his son, William S., was platting the town of Cedar Lake. His death occurred in 1896. There was talk of the Lansing & Western railroad building a line at this point but it was developed three miles further west, consequently the land which the Nelsons held did not increase in value to the extent that had been expected. The property of William S. Nelson at one time was about eighteen hundred acres, beside numerous mills and a general merchandise store. Later he engaged in the creamery and stock business, importing the first registered cattle and Shropshire sheep ever brought into the county. He finally sold part of his interests and removed to Fresno, California, where he engaged in the real-estate business, but later removed to Oregon, where he bought and sold timber lands for the Bradleys, of Bay City, Michigan. His death occurred about 1905.

Wilbur, the second son of Judge Francis Nelson, enlisted in the Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged after he had received a flesh wound in the leg, but soon re-enlisted and received the captaincy of the First Regiment, Michigan Colored Volunteer Infantry, serving in that office until the close of the Civil War. In the battle of James Island he was shot through the lungs but recovered, and later lost a finger in another skirmish. For a time he was engaged in the general merchandise

business at Ithaca, Michigan, the firm being known as Nelson, Barber & Company.

The third son of Judge Francis Nelson was Rev. Theodore Nelson, who was, in some respects, the most distinguished member of the household, having made for himself a reputation as a minister and instructor not inferior to that of any clergyman in his part of the state of Michigan. He enlisted three times before gaining the consent of his parents to serve his country during the Civil War, but he finally enlisted in Company D, Twenty-sixth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in which company he received the commission of second lieutenant. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and after entering the ministry was for nine years pastor of the First Baptist church of East Saginaw, Michigan. Twice during his pastorate his health failed and his friends sent him abroad to recuperate. It was a common saying in East Saginaw that he was pastor not only of the Baptist church but of the whole city. Later he became president of Kalamazoo College, where he was held in high esteem and had the earnest co-operation of the students.

GEORGE HERMAN.

George Herman, farmer and stock raiser of Home township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is a congenial, progressive and successful citizen of this section and is well liked by all who know him. His birth occurred on December 31, 1865, in Clarence township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and he is the son of Henry W. and Elizabeth (Courtwright) Herman. Henry W. Herman was born in Fredonia township, Calhoun county, Michigan, and was the son of Peter and Julia (McDonald) Herman, both natives of Canada. Peter Herman was reared and educated in Canada, engaging in agricultural pursuits when he reached a mature age. He was of German descent and came to the United States after his marriage, locating in Calhoun county and thence to Allegan county, Michigan, where his death occurred. Julia (McDonald) Herman was also a native of Canada, but of Scotch descent, and her death also occurred in Allegan county, Michigan. They were the parents of three children: Henry W., Mrs. Jane Freeborn, of California, and Belle, deceased.

Henry W. Herman was reared and educated in Calhoun county, Michigan, later engaging in the vocation of farmer, which he followed until his

death, in 1874. He married Elizabeth Courtright, and they were the parents of six children, whose names follow: Jessie, wife of William Emery, a retired farmer living in Edmore, Michigan; Lee, of Howard City, Michigan; George; Clayton, who died when eight years of age; John E., a farmer of Home township, this county, and Walter, who died when thirteen years of age. After the death of Henry W. Herman, his widow married James Kelicutt, a farmer of Home township.

George Herman was reared in his native township, in Calhoun county, Michigan, until he reached the age of twelve years, at which time he removed with his parents to Eaton county, Michigan, where they remained for one year, thence removing to the town of Albion, in Calhoun county, Michigan. Shortly after the family located in this place George Herman began independent operations in the agricultural line by working as a farm hand and, at the same time, attending the graded schools, which he finished at Springport, Jackson county, Michigan. He was employed by one man for nine years.

On February 18, 1890, George Herman and Edith Pelton were united in marriage, and they became the parents of one child, Lester L., who was born on October 10, 1892. After his marriage, George Herman remained in Springport, Michigan, where he worked as a laborer for three years, subsequently purchasing an eighty-acre farm near Brookfield, Eaton county, Michigan. This property was unimproved and wild, but it was soon cleared and put under cultivation and remained the property of the family for a period of ten years. The place was then sold and the family removed to their present location, which was then a wilderness of brush and stumps, but is at present a well improved place. George Herman became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows while a resident of Springport, and now belongs to Empire Lodge No. 39, of Edmore, Michigan. He is also a member of the Edmore Lodge No. 360, Free and Accepted Masons. He is an active Republican and served as highway commissioner.

Edith (Pelton) Herman, wife of George Herman, comes of sturdy pioneer stock. She was born on July 26, 1872, in Springport, Jackson county, Michigan, and is the daughter of Henry J. and Julia (Davis) Pelton. Henry J. Pelton was born on March 14, 1840, in Lenawee county, Michigan, and is the son of Jonathan and Susanna (Gilman) Pelton, natives of New York state and Michigan, respectively. Jonathan Pelton left his native state to locate in Eaton township, Eaton county, Michigan, where his death occurred in 1849. He and wife

were the parents of six children: Mrs. Sarah Briggs, of Sanilac county, Michigan; Henry J., now an inmate of the Soldiers Home at Grand Rapids, Michigan; Mrs. Mary Williams, of Portland, Oregon; Joanna, deceased; Martha, deceased, and another child who died in infancy. Henry J. Pelton was reared on the home farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits in Springport township, Jackson county, Michigan, until he removed to the town of Springport because of his wife's health. In 1861 he enlisted in the Civil War and served three years and six months, giving brave and efficient service. On October 26, 1871, he was married to Julia Davis, daughter of J. S. and Roselyn (Crawford) Davis, and to them were born these children: Edith; Benjamin, now of Springport, Michigan; Floyd James, who died when three years of age, and Sarah, wife of J. B. Hotaling, of Edmore, Michigan. Julia (Davis) Pelton was born on September 30, 1855, in Jackson county, Michigan, where she was reared and educated. Her parents were natives of Maine and were married in that state, later removing to Michigan, where they engaged in farming until death. Julia (Davis) Pelton died on April 1, 1903, and her husband then entered the Soldiers Home, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the sake of being near old comrades. He is a Republican in his political views, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Springport, Michigan.

EDWIN S. ROWLEY.

Edwin S. Rowley, a prominent farmer and landowner of Montcalm township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1845. He is the son of William S. and Elizabeth (Johnson) Rowley, who came from Pennsylvania to Montcalm township, Montcalm county, in 1854 and purchased eighty acres of land just west of the eighty-acre farm where Edwin S. Rowley now lives. Mr. and Mrs. William S. Rowley lived on this farm for five years, after which they lived on other farms elsewhere in this township the remainder of their lives. William S. Rowley was a prosperous farmer and well known in this vicinity, being very active in public affairs. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Baptist church, taking a deep interest in all religious matters. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are living: Edwin S., the subject of this sketch; Gibson H., a banker and farmer in Iowa, and George, a resident of Grand Rapids.

Being nine years of age when he came to Montcalm county, Edwin S. Rowley received practically all of his education in the district schools of this county, which he attended in the winter, working on the farm during the summer. At the age of eighteen, Mr. Rowley started out for himself, farming with his brother, Wallace, on shares, and later sold all of his interest to his brother. At the age of twenty years, he purchased his home farm of eighty acres, paying for it in installments of one hundred dollars, including interest and taxes. This farm is situated four miles north of Greenville, and Mr. Rowley has cleared and improved this land and brought it to its high state of cultivation. He has since added to his original farm until he now owns in all seven hundred and twenty acres in Montcalm county and forty acres in the northern part of Michigan, all of which he has accumulated through his own efforts.

Edwin S. Rowley was married to Anna Eastman, a native of Illinois, and to them was born one son, William S., who is now residing in the West. After the death of Mrs. Anna Rowley, Mr. Rowley married Carrie Churchill, who was born in Montcalm township, and to them has been born one son, Stacy E., who married Anna Gronzo, and is a farmer of Pine township.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and both are active workers and liberal supporters of this denomination. In politics, Mr. Rowley is a Republican and has held the offices of treasurer of the township and school director. Mrs. Rowley is a stockholder in the State Commercial Bank. Mr. Rowley is a self-made man in every sense of the word and is deserving of the high esteem and respect in which he is held by all who know him.

FRED E. CURTIS.

Fred E. Curtis, deputy sheriff of Montcalm county and clerk of the village of Edmore, in which village he is quite successfully engaged in the hay and feed business, besides which he operates a profitable dray line and cultivates a tract of twenty acres of land surrounding his home within the corporate limits of the village, being also the owner of a farm of forty acres in Home township, not far from the village, which he rents to a tenant, being thus very properly regarded as one of the substantial citizens of Edmore, as well as one of the best-known young men in Montcalm county, is a native

son of Michigan, having been born in Barry county, this state, on July 25, 1880, son of Lorenzo D. and Catherine (Paddock) Curtis, long prominent residents of Edmore, further details of the history of which family are set out in a biographical sketch relating to Lorenzo D. Curtis, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Fred E. Curtis was three years of age when he came to this county with his family from Barry county and he grew up at Edmore, receiving his education in the village schools there. He early began to assist his father in the operation of a dray line at Edmore and is still actively engaged in that line. In 1904 he married and about that time acquired a tract of twenty acres of land within the corporate limits of the town of Edmore, improved the same, established his home there and has lived there ever since, being the owner of a very pleasant home. In addition to his drayage business, Mr. Curtis is also quite profitably engaged in the retail hay and feed business and at the same time cultivates his twenty-acre tract of town land. He also is the owner of a forty-acre farm in Home township, which he rents with profit.

Not only has Fred E. Curtis long been active in the business life of Edmore, but for years he has taken an active part in local political affairs. He is a Republican and for ten years past has held the office of village clerk, a position which he has filled in an admirable manner, and since 1907 has been deputy sheriff for that section of the county, performing his duties in that connection with so much credit to himself that his friends confidently predict that he will be sheriff of the county in due time.

On September 2, 1904, Fred E. Curtis was united in marriage, at Rock Lake, this county, to Edna Eldridge, who was born in Jackson county, this state, daughter of A. B. and Lucelia (Gillett) Eldridge, both natives of Jackson county. A. B. Eldridge was born at Albion, in 1852, son of Clark and Lucinda (VanHorn) Eldridge, natives of New York state, who came to Michigan at an early day and settled in Jackson county, where they reared their family, long being recognized as among the leading pioneers of that section. A. B. Eldridge grew up there and married Lucelia Gillett, who was born in 1853, daughter of Benjamin and Lydia (Bennett) Gillett, also natives of New York state, who likewise were pioneers of Jackson county, and both of whom died at Albion. To A. B. Eldridge and wife two children were born, both daughters, Edna, who married Mr. Curtis, and Elsie, who lives at Lansing. Edna Eldridge moved to Battle Creek with her parents in 1887 and lived there for three years, at the end of which time she came to this

county, locating at Cedar Lake, where she made her home until the time of her marriage to Mr. Curtis.

To Fred E. and Edna (Eldridge) Curtis four children have been born, as follow: Elsie, born on May 25, 1905; Charlotte, October 14, 1907; Alvin, October 24, 1909, and Clyde, September 10, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis take a proper part in the general social activities of their neighborhood and are held in high regard by their many friends thereabout. Mr. Curtis is a member of the lodges of the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Maccabees and the Moose, at Edmore, and of the Elks, at Ionia, and takes a warm interest in the affairs of all these organizations.

PHILIP J. HATCHEW.

Philip J. Hatchew, well-known retired farmer, now living at Stanton, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he is one of the highly respected citizens of the community, was born in Boonville county, New York, on May 20, 1845, a son of Philip J. and Lena (Reams) Hatchew, natives of Germany.

Philip J. Hatchew, Sr., came to America when a young man and settled in New York state, where he followed his occupation as a harness-maker until 1851, and then moved to Kent county, Michigan, where he bought a farm of forty acres, which he cultivated as a general farmer and worked at his trade at the same time. Later, the elder Hatchew moved to Douglass township, Montcalm county, and lived a retired life for the remainder of his days, dying on July 21, 1891, at the age of seventy-two years.

Philip J. Hatchew received his education in the public schools of Kent county, Michigan, after which he became a farmer, working on the home place until about 1875, when he came to Montcalm county and bought eighty acres of land in Douglass township, which he cleared and improved and there made his home as a farmer for about forty years. Mr. Hatchew then disposed of his farm and moved to Stanton, where he secured a beautiful home property, which he has improved and remodeled and where he has made his home since March, 1915.

On October 3, 1868, Philip J. Hatchew was married to Philena Allen, who was born at Dry Prairie, Calhoun county, Michigan, on October 11, 1852, they becoming the parents of five children: Hiram D., born on September 9, 1869, married to Anna Dakins, he now living at Flint, Michigan, as a cement contractor, with the following children, Glenn, Bessie, Lydia,

Clayton, George, Raymond and Hiram; Frank, born on December 29, 1871, married to Jennie Smith, and now living near Ionia, Ionia county, Michigan, with three children, Myrta, Ethel and Ila; Sidney J., who was born on November 12, 1878, and died on June 16, 1879; Earl J., born on April 4, 1883, married to Josie Swarthout, he now being a merchant of Graton Center, Michigan, and Eva May, born on November 20, 1886, she now being the wife of Benjamin J. Adams, of Ionia, Michigan, they being the parents of three children, Ira, Lottie and Sidney.

Mrs. Hatchew is a daughter of James and Janet (Seely) Allen, the former born in Broome county, New York, on March 12, 1833; the latter at Portland, Whiteside county, Illinois, on June 30, 1836. They were the parents of five children: Philena, born on October 11, 1852; Eve L., October 11, 1854; M. Isabell, April 11, 1859; Nellie Janet, April 17, 1865, and Lawrence J., on May 17, 1868.

Philip J. Hatchew is a member of the Baptist church at Stanton, and takes an active interest in the affairs of the Republican party, with which he is affiliated. At one time Mr. Hatchew was a member of the Knights of the Maccabees, but is not now active in this organization. Mrs. Hatchew is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist church at Clifford Lake, and is an active member of the Ladies of the Maccabees, in which organization she has been a worker for fifteen years.

FRANK S. GIBSON.

Frank S. Gibson, one of the oldest and best-known merchants of Greenville, this county, president of the Greenville State Bank and president of the Gibson Refrigerator Company of that same place, is a native of the state of New York, having been born in the town of East Aurora, not far from Buffalo, that state, December 20, 1857, son of Chisman and Elizabeth (Smith) Gibson, the former of whom was a native of England and the latter of the state of New York.

Chisman Gibson was born in Darlington, Durham county, England, in August 1824, and grew up to be a tailor. He married in his native land, and to that union three sons were born: Thomas C., now a merchant at Greenville, Pennsylvania; Fred, who died in Florida in 1900, and William, who died at Denver, Colorado, in 1911. Following the death of his wife in England, Chisman Gibson, with his three sons, in company with his three

brothers, came to America, sailing from Liverpool to New York City. Upon arriving in New York, Chisman Gibson worked for several years as a tailor and from that city moved to Buffalo, same state, where he married Elizabeth Smith, who was born in that city in 1831, and to this second union five children were born, namely: John, who died in Chicago in 1882; Charles H., who is engaged in the produce business at Greenville, this county; Frank S., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Byron D., a merchant at East Aurora, New York, and Sarah E., who married E. M. Bartlett, and died in 1912. Following his second marriage, Chisman Gibson moved to East Aurora, New York, where he opened a clothing store and tailoring establishment and there he spent the rest of his life, becoming one of the best-known merchants in that city. His wife died in 1868 and he survived her many years, his death occurring in 1890.

Frank S. Gibson was reared at East Aurora, receiving his education there and was granted a regent's certificate from the East Aurora Academy. In September, 1876, he then being about nineteen years of age, he came to Michigan, locating at Hancock, where his uncle, John Gibson, was engaged in business, and for three years was employed in his uncle's store. In the fall of 1879 he returned to Buffalo and East Aurora, but in the next February, 1880, came back to Michigan, locating at Greenville, this county, where he ever since has made his home and where he has been very successful in business. Upon locating at Greenville, Mr. Gibson opened a clothing store, merchant tailoring and men's furnishings, and has ever since been actively connected with the Gibson Clothing Company at that place. In addition to his extensive mercantile interests, Mr. Gibson has taken a prominent part in the development of other interests and industries in and about Greenville and long has been regarded as a public-spirited and energetic citizen. In November, 1908, he organized the Gibson Refrigerator Company at Greenville, was elected the first president of that thriving concern and has served in that capacity ever since. He was one of the founders of the Greenville State Bank, having been one of the original directors of that sound old financial institution, for a good many years was vice-president of the same and since November, 1914, has been president of the bank, in which connection he occupies a high place in banking circles in this part of the state. Mr. Gibson is a Republican and for years has taken an active interest in local political affairs, though not being included among the office seekers. He has ever taken a warm interest in educational matters and for twelve or fifteen years has served very usefully as a member of the Greenville school board.

On October 30, 1889, Frank S. Gibson was united in marriage to Gertrude Johnson, daughter of Charles W. and Justine Elizabeth (Tabor) Johnson, and to this union three children have been born: Charles J., who is secretary of the Gibson Refrigerator Company; Justine E., who was graduated from the Greenville high school and is now a student at the Martha Washington Seminary at Washington, D. C., and Frank S., Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson and members of the Congregational church at Greenville and take an active interest in all local social and cultural activities, being held in high esteem thereabout. Mr. Gibson is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Greenville and of the consistory of the Scottish Rite at Grand Rapids and of Saladin Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at the same place. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America at Greenville, and in the affairs of all these several organizations takes a warm interest.

SAMUEL D. PECK.

Samuel D. Peck, a well-known farmer, specializing in the production of beans, and a man who takes a prominent place in the affairs of Montcalm township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born on the farm where he now lives, near Greenville, on August 30, 1871, a son of Philander A. and Elma A. (Hart) Peck, natives of New Haven, Connecticut, and of Lima, Ohio, respectively.

Philander A. Peck, who was a son of Samuel B. Peck, and who was directly descended from William Peck, of a party of settlers who landed at New Haven, Connecticut, in 1622, moved to New York state when a boy and lived there until he was eighteen years of age, and then, his father having died, Philander A. Peck, with his mother and a brother, came to the state of Michigan, in 1852, and after a long journey made by wagon from their former home, they settled near Greenville, Montcalm county, on a farm of eighty acres which had been homesteaded about two years before this time. Later, Philander A. Peck purchased the interest of the other owners and secured the farm of eighty acres on which he engaged in farm pursuits for the remainder of his days.

Philander A. Peck was married on December 10, 1862, to Elma A. Hart, a daughter of John Hart and wife, of Lima, Ohio, they being descended

from an old Quaker family, who settled originally in the state of Pennsylvania. Philander A. and Elma A. Peck were the parents of three children: Mary I., who is deceased; Mertie E., the wife of William O'Conner, and Samuel D., the subject of this sketch.

Samuel D. Peck received his education in the public schools of Greenville, after which he worked on the home farm, until he reached maturity, and then, on November 1, 1905, Samuel D. Peck was married to Harriet L. Snyder, a daughter of Herbert S. and Flora (Fuller) Snyder, the former of whom came from the state of Minnesota to Michigan, and located in Montcalm township, of Montcalm county. To the marriage of Samuel D. and Harriet Peck have been born five children, three of whom are living, all at home: Elma F., William S. and M. Imogene. Mr. Peck and his family are active members of the Congregational church at Greenville.

In the official life of Montcalm township, Samuel D. Peck is well known, he now serving in the capacity of township treasurer, an office to which he was elected in April, 1915. Mr. Peck is an ardent Republican. Samuel D. Peck is a prominent member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, in Montcalm county, and is a citizen who is active and devoted to the promotion of public good and welfare.

ENGLEBRECHT HANSEN.

Englebrecht Hansen, a well-known farmer and prominent citizen of Montcalm township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born at Steuby, Denmark, on December 5, 1848, a son of Hans Christian and Mary Anna (Peterson) Hansen, natives of Denmark, where Hans Christian Hansen lived and died, after which his widow and her five children came to America in 1872 and located at Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan.

After reaching his new home in Greenville, Montcalm county, Englebrecht Hansen, together with the other members of his mother's family, engaged in general work, by the day, Englebrecht Hansen taking up duties as a lumber worker, succeeding in this occupation until he was receiving a good income. After two years in the vicinity of Greenville, Englebrecht Hansen went to Stanton, where he was employed for one year and then he went to Caldwell, where he worked for about one year. Later, Englebrecht Hansen went to Coral, Michigan, and after one year moved to the state of Wisconsin, where he was employed for about four years, and then he and a former employer started a lumber yard, which they conducted for five

months, when Mr. Hansen disposed of his interests in the lumber business and returned to the state of Michigan. On his return to Michigan, Englebrecht Hansen, in 1885, bought eighty acres of land located near Greenville, in Montcalm township, Montcalm county, which he improved and a farm to which he has added land, until now he is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved and highly-cultivated land, on which he is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On January 9, 1883, Englebrecht Hansen was married to Caroline Stephsen, a native of Denmark, and to this marriage were born the following children: Arthur, Florence, Cephas, Orletta and Carl. On December 10, 1895, Caroline, the wife of Englebrecht Hansen, died, and some time later Mr. Hansen was married, secondly, to Katrina Petersen. To the marriage of Englebrecht and Katrina Hansen have been born four children, Louise, Helen, Myrtle and Morgan. Englebrecht Hansen and his family are active members of the Danish Lutheran church.

Englebrecht Hansen has taken a notable place in the public affairs and official life of Montcalm county, having served four terms as township treasurer, having been a school director for some years and now Mr. Hansen is occupying the office as moderator of the school district. In politics, Mr. Hansen is an ardent Republican.

Englebrecht Hansen is prominent in the affairs of the Danish Brotherhood Society and is a man who is foremost in all general efforts and movements having for their object the promotion of the welfare of the community. Mr. Hansen and his family are among the highly respected people of the township and of Montcalm county.

DAVID C. REED.

"Walnut Grove Farm," a snug little tract, well kept and substantially improved, lying on rural route No. 2, out of Stanton, this county, five miles east and a quarter of a mile north of the county seat, and consisting of forty acres, is owned by David C. Reed, a veteran of the Civil War, who has been a resident of Montcalm county since the year 1882.

David C. Reed was born in Niagara county, New York, on December 27, 1834, son of Josiah and Harnett (Umpslead) Reed, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Connecticut, farming people, who were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch is now the

sole survivor. When he was six years of age, David C. Reed was bereft by death of his father and he was thereafter taken care of by his grandfather, who carefully schooled and sheltered him until he had arrived at the age of self-support, after which he began working for neighboring farmers for twenty-five cents a day and was employed as a farm laborer until he was twenty-one years of age.

On December 27, 1853, David C. Reed was united in marriage to Lucy E. Warner, who was born in Erie county, New York, November 20, 1836, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Boardman) Warner, and whose parents left New York for Toledo, Ohio, when she was an infant, she having been reared by an aunt from the time she was a little more than a year old and with whom she lived until the time of her marriage. She is now the last survivor of her family. Following their marriage David C. Reed and his wife settled down on a farm in New York state and were there located when the Civil War broke out. Mr. Reed enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Sixteenth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the Potomac, with which he served valiantly until the close of the war and was mustered out with his regiment in July, 1865.

At the close of the war Mr. Reed returned to his New York home, resuming his farming operations and was thus engaged there until 1882, in which year he and his family came to Michigan, settling in this county, where they have resided ever since. At the time the Reeds settled on their present place in Day township the country thereabout was all woods, but they have made a very comfortable home out of the woods tract and are now very pleasantly situated on pretty "Walnut Grove Farm."

Mr. and Mrs. Reed have four children, namely: Edwin D. Reed, a farmer of Day township, this county; Jennie M., wife of Peter Foley, living near Crystal Lake, this county; William L., a farmer, of Gratiot county, this state, and Alvin L., a farmer of New York state. Mr. and Mrs. Reed are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Cedarville and are held in high esteem in their neighborhood, Mrs. Reed being one of the most active participants in the good works of that congregation and all members of the family are earnest supporters of the cause.

Mr. Reed is a Republican and ever has given a good citizen's attention to the county's political affairs and has served the public as a member of the highway commission. He is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is held in high regard by the comrades of his post as well as by the community at large, being widely recognized as a good neighbor and a substantial citizen.

M. J. McCONKIE.

M. J. McConkie, one of the most substantial farmers in Montcalm county, owner of a well-cultivated and profitable tract of two hundred acres situated on rural route No. 5, out of Stanton, five miles east and one mile south of the county seat, in Evergreen township, has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1903 and has long been recognized as one of the most progressive and prosperous farmers of that section of the county.

M. J. McConkie was born in Richland county, Ohio, on September 30, 1857, son of R. H. and Catherine (O'Henay) McConkie, both of whom were born in that same county and who grew up together in the same neighborhood. R. H. McConkie was a son of James McConkie, who came to the United States from Ireland and settled in Richland county, Ohio, where he married a Johnson and settled on a farm in that county, where both he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, he living to the great age of ninety-seven years and she to the age of ninety-three. They were prosperous farmers and leaders in the community in which they lived, influential in church work and active in all good works, and were held in high regard thereabout. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters.

R. H. McConkie was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood and so greatly excelled in his studies that he became a teacher in the schools of Richland county and was thus engaged for several years. He married Catherine O'Henay, a schoolmate of his boyhood days, and to this union nine children were born, five of whom are still living, namely: M. J., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; E. E., a farmer, who still lives in Ohio; George E., a prosperous fruit grower in California; James B., a prominent teacher in the schools of Ohio, and Anna, wife of Joseph Brown, who also lives in Ohio.

M. J. McConkie spent his boyhood on the home farm in Ohio and supplemented his schooling in the district school by a course in Abingdon College. At the age of sixteen he left home and went to Illinois, locating in Knox county, where he was engaged in farm work for others until his marriage in 1881, after which he settled down on a farm of his own in that county and remained there for twenty-seven years, at the end of which time, in March, 1903, he came to Michigan, locating in Montcalm county, where he bought three hundred and sixty acres in Evergreen township, where he has lived

ever since and where he has prospered. Some time after buying his place in this county he sold a quarter of a section off the tract and is now the owner of two hundred acres of fine land, which has been brought to an excellent state of cultivation.

On March 23, 1881, M. J. McConkie was united in marriage to Anna B. Crosson, who was born in Knox county, Illinois, and to this union the following children have been born: Mabel C., wife of Eugene Spach; Leonard, of Bloomington, Illinois; Florence, now deceased, who was a graduate of an Evangelistic school at Chicago; Inez, a graduate of Mt. Pleasant school, wife of George Breman, of Bushnell township, this county; Minnie, wife of Lowell McCarty, of Wyandotte, Michigan; Ray, a farmer in Ferris township, this county, who married Addie McDonald; Roy, an electrician at Grand Rapids, this state, who married Olive Stratton; Tracy, at home; Verna, who lives at Crystal, this county; Winifred, a graduate of the Crystal high school, and Marcetta and Gladys, students in the high school. Mr. and Mrs. McConkie are looked upon as among the leaders in the communal life of their neighborhood and they and all the members of their family are held in very high regard thereabout.

Mr. McConkie is a Republican and takes a proper and earnest interest in the political affairs of the county, though never having been included in the office-seeking class and has never held any public office. He is a good citizen, a prosperous and progressive farmer and possesses the warm esteem of the entire neighborhood.

WILLIAM E. DREWS.

William E. Drews has the distinction of being a self-made man and is worthy of the respect and esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens. He was born on September 1, 1861, in Germany, and is the son of Louis and Wilhelmina (Brightman) Drews, both natives of Germany, who immigrated to America in 1874. They were married in that country and two of their children died there. After their arrival in the United States they located in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and remained there until death. They were the parents of eight children, two only of whom are now living, Minnie and William E. Minnie is the wife of John Edgett and their home is in Somerset, Kentucky.

William E. Drews received most of his education in the schools of his

native land, only attending one term of school after his immigration to this country in 1874. He was but fourteen years of age when he arrived here, accompanied by his parents, and located with them in Sidney township, Montcalm county, Michigan. His parents were poor and he began his career as a farm hand, continuing in this capacity for three years after he had reached his majority. He then was employed in a shingle mill.

On January 29, 1889, William E. Drews was married to Minnie Noah, daughter of J. H. Noah, and to them have been born these children: Ralph, Leta, Arthur, Burl, Charley and Frank. William E. Drews has acquired both a competency and the responsibility of public office, having served in every township office except that of supervisor and is at present acting as highway commissioner. Politically, he is a Republican. He is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons. He has a well improved, well regulated farm known as the "Popular Stock Farm" which consists of one hundred and eighty acres. This place is devoted to the breeding of Holstein cattle, draft horses and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

EDGAR A. STOKES.

Edgar A. Stokes, the proprietor of the well-known "Montcalm Stock Farm," was born in Eureka township, Montcalm county, April 14, 1862, the son of William and Mary (Van Kleeck) Stokes. Both William and Mary Stokes were born in New York state and came to Michigan with their respective parents, settling in Montcalm county, where they grew up and were married. William Stokes was a prosperous and well-to-do farmer and was always active in local politics. He is now deceased, but his wife is still living and resides in Greenville, Michigan. To them were born three children, Edgar A., the subject of this sketch; Frank L., the proprietor of the Central House in Greenville; and Fred, who is a prosperous farmer of Eureka township.

Edgar A. Stokes was reared on a farm and received his education in the district schools of his home neighborhood and in the Belding high school. After completing his education he began farming with his father and continued with him for five years, at the end of which time he purchased a part of the old home farm and lived on it until 1909, when he sold it and bought the farm where he now lives. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres and is situated five miles north and one mile east of Greenville. Mr.

Stokes is an extensive breeder of live stock, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He has been breeding cattle for the past ten years and has a fine herd headed by "Marcus," which he exhibits at local fairs and on which he has taken numerous prizes. During the past year he has sold over twelve hundred dollars worth of cattle. He also has a fine herd of registered Poland China hogs, on which he often holds sales. Mr. Stokes's farm is well improved and highly productive and is modern and up-to-date in every respect.

Edgar A. Stokes was married in May, 1885, to Metta A. Moon, who was born in this county on October 1, 1864, the daughter of John B. Moon. Mrs. Stokes was graduated from the Belding high school and taught school before her marriage. To this union have been born eight children: Leroy E., who is a graduate of the Greenville Business College and a bookkeeper in Ionia; Glenn R., a graduate of Bliss Business College and a farmer in Montcalm township; Forrest G., who is a resident of Detroit and the mail order clerk of a ten-cent store in that city; Edna M., the wife of Esmond Harrington; Vera L., the wife of John Lavender; William J., Fred B. and Rhoda M., who are at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Stokes and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active interest in the work of the church and Sunday school. In politics, he is a Republican and has served his township as justice of the peace and school director.

SPENCER McCLELLAN.

Spencer McClellan, the postmaster of Gowen, Michigan, was born in Kent county, Michigan, March 28, 1850, the son of Samuel and Jane (Spencer) McClellan, both of whom were natives of Nova Scotia, where they grew up and married. After their marriage they came to Michigan and located in Jackson county, later moving to Kent county, where they farmed until their deaths. They were the parents of twelve children, four of whom are living: James, who lives in Oceana county, Michigan; Tabitha, the wife of Uri Stuhler; Spencer, the subject of this sketch, and Susan, the wife of George Fellows, of Cadillac, Michigan.

At the early age of ten years, Spencer McClellan was left without a father, and, after leaving school at the age of twelve years, he started out for himself. He was married at the age of twenty-one years, after which

he located in Spencer township, Kent county, Michigan, where he lived for some time. For six years he worked in the Watson mill and, during this time, his foreman in the mill lived on Mr. McClellan's farm. Mr. McClellan owns a farm in Mason county, Michigan, and also a house and twelve lots in Gowen. He moved to Montcalm county in 1900 and has lived here since that time.

Spencer McClellan was married on September 22, 1871, to Frances Story, who was born in Seneca county, New York. Mrs. McClellan passed away June 29, 1913, deeply mourned by her husband and a large number of friends in this community.

Mr. McClellan is a member of the Baptist church and takes an active interest in all religious matters. Fraternally, he is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons. In politics, Mr. McClellan is a Democrat and has served as postmaster of Gowen since November 11, 1904, filling this office very efficiently and to the entire satisfaction of the citizens of Gowen, which is proved by his long tenure in this position. Mr. McClellan is well liked and highly respected by a host of friends in Gowen and throughout Montcalm county.

JOHN C. DESPELTER.

John C. Despelter, the proprietor of "East Side Farm," was born in Southfield township, Oakland county, Michigan, August 25, 1846, the son of Peter and Dina (Debree) Despelter. Both Peter and Dina Despelter were natives of Holland, where they were reared, educated and married, coming to the United States in 1845 and locating in Oakland county, Michigan, where he was a carpenter and contractor. On October 20, 1854, they moved to Montcalm county, where they purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty-six acres in Montcalm township, and here they lived until their deaths, he dying on August 6, 1888, and she ten years later, in 1898. Both were active church workers. Peter Despelter was a Republican in politics and at one time treasurer of the township. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are now living: John C., the subject of this sketch; Jacob A., a farmer and business man in Eureka township; P. J., a retired farmer of Greenville; Anna, the wife of J. H. Ver Plank, of Bushnell township. and E. J., a retired farmer of Greenville.

John C. Despelter was reared on his father's farm in Montcalm township and, being the eldest in the family, had to help his father on the farm

during the summers, but attended school in the winters until he was eighteen years of age. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he was married and started farming for himself on a farm of eighty acres in Montcalm township. This farm is known as "East Side Farm" and is situated one mile east and four miles north of Greenville.

John C. Despelter was married in 1867 to Helen Van Ness, who is of Dutch descent, her ancestors having come to the United States from Holland in 1642. She was born in Greenville, August 10, 1849, the daughter of George Van Ness, and was educated in both the common and high schools, having been a teacher before her marriage. To this union have been born four children: Will, who married Nettie Thompson and lives near Six Lakes; Nettie, a graduate of Alma College, is the wife of Howard Moore, but was formerly a trained nurse, having graduated from the Cook county hospital and, for seven years, served as superintendent of the Kenosha hospital; Nora, who is a graduate of the Cook county hospital and now the wife of J. E. Walker, of Lansing, Michigan, and J. Howard, who is in the third year of the Greenville high school.

Mr. Despelter and his family are members of the Montcalm Methodist Episcopal church, in which all are enthusiastic workers, Mr. Despelter being a member of the official board. In politics, Mr. Desplter is a Republican, but has never been an office seeker.

WILLIAM J. STAINES.

William J. Staines, a well-known farmer of Fairplain township Montcalm county, and the proprietor of "Woodside Farm," was born in Bushnell township, December 17, 1863. He is the son of William C. and Sarah A. (Hammant) Staines, the former of whom was born in New York state, in October, 1834, and the latter in Lincolnshire, England, in 1840. Sarah A. Hammant came to the United States with her parents and grew up in New York state, where she was married. After her marriage, she came with her husband to Michigan, settling on a farm in Bushnell township, where she lived until her death, April 1, 1872, when her son, William J., was only eight years of age. To William C. and Sarah A. (Hammant) Staines were born three children: William J., the subject of this sketch; Fred J., a farmer in Eureka township, and Emma J., the wife of George W. Peabody. After the death of his wife, William C. Staines was married a second time.

William J. Staines remained at home with his father and stepmother until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began working on the old farm and other farms adjoining. In 1888 he and his brother purchased the farm on which he now lives, but which was then nothing but woods, and, in June of that year, he moved to this farm and began clearing it. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres, situated two and one-half miles south and one mile west of Sheridan, and is known by the name "Woodside Farm." Mr. Staines first purchased only eighty acres, which he improved and on which he erected a fine residence, a large barn with annex, put up good fences, and to which he later added forty acres. Besides this farm Mr. Staines owns the old homestead of one hundred acres in Bushnell township. He is an extensive breeder of Holstein cattle and has a fine herd headed by "Ithlia Lyons Harlog," No. 147037, born on January 18, 1914. He keeps about twelve cows all the time, which he milks with an up-to-date milking machine run by a gasoline engine, and finds a market for the milk at the Fenwick cheese factory. Mr. Staines also has a fine flock of well-bred sheep and six or eight good horses. Mr. Staines is the possessor of a large Reo automobile, from which he gets much enjoyment.

On December 25, 1884, William J. Staines was married to Nellie Scott, who was born on May 31, 1866, in Bushnell township, the daughter of Mrs. Ira Scott. She was reared on a farm and educated in the district schools of her home vicinity, having grown up in the same community as her husband. To this union has been born one son, Glenn S., who was born on November 15, 1886. He is a graduate of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, having graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. For some time he was an instructor of music, but is now a druggist on Eastern avenue in Grand Rapids. He is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons; the Order of the Eastern Star, and a social member of the Malta lodge.

Fraternally, Mr. Staines is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons. Both he and his wife are members of Pearl Lake Chapter No. 347, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Ladies of the Maccabees, in which Mrs. Staines has served as commander. In politics, Mr. Staines is a Republican, but has never cared to take an active part in political affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Staines have resided in Montcalm county all of their lives and are well known throughout the county. Both are pleasant, affable people and are well liked by all who know them.

EDWARD W. LINCOLN.

Edward W. Lincoln, a farmer and prominent fruit grower of Montcalm township, Montcalm county, was born in St. Peter, Minnesota, August 18, 1867, the son of William and Elizabeth (Snyder) Lincoln, both of whom were natives of Cortland county, New York, where they grew up and married. After their marriage they came west locating in Minnesota, but in March, 1869, came to Montcalm county and settled on the farm where Edward W. Lincoln now lives, where they resided until their deaths. They were the parents of five children: L. C., a florist of Greenville; D. S., a farmer and gardener of Big Rapids; Ida, the wife of Frank Bollio, of Greenville; Edward W., the subject of this article, and Webster, a landscape gardener in California.

Edward W. Lincoln was one and one-half years old when he came with his parents from Minnesota to Michigan and settled on the farm which he now owns. Like the majority of farmer boys, Mr. Lincoln attended school in the winter and assisted his father with the farm work in the summer. At the age of twenty-one years he went into business with his brother at Big Rapids, where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he was married and moved to Colorado, where he opened a book store and bazaar. He continued in this business in Colorado only one year, when he returned to Michigan and located on the old home place, where he took up the occupation of fruit growing. This farm is known as "Oak Lawn Fruit Farm" and consists of one hundred acres situated two miles north and one-half mile east of Greenville. Mr. Lincoln raises all kinds of fruits, but makes a specialty of apples, which he ships to all parts of the country, being well known to all apple dealers. He has exhibited his apples at various fairs, including those held at Detroit and has taken many first premiums. Mr. Lincoln's farm is well improved and he has adopted all of the modern Methods of horticulture and is considered a very successful fruit grower.

In 1893 Edward W. Lincoln was united in marriage to Elizabeth Sharp, who was born in Big Rapids, Michigan, the daughter of Thomas J. and Mary (Rexford) Sharp. Mrs. Lincoln was educated in the Michigan State Normal School and before her marriage was a teacher in the public schools of Big Rapids. To this union have been born five children: Clarence, who is a graduate of the Greenville high school and a fruit grower; Esther, who is a graduate of the Greenville high school and lives at home; Herbert, who is also a graduate of the Greenville high school and a student in the electrical

engineering department of the Michigan State University; Gertrude and Robert, who are attending the public schools.

Mr. Lincoln is president and one of the organizers of the Greenville Produce & Supply Company, a farmers' organization composed of one hundred and sixty members and with a capital stock of five thousand dollars. This company buys and ships all kinds of produce and is a general farmers' supply company.

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and family are members of the Congregational church and all take an active interest in church affairs. Mr. Lincoln is a Republican, but, owing to his extensive business interests, he has never taken an active part in politics.

GEORGE W. PEABODY.

George W. Peabody, a farmer living near Sheridan, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Bushnell township, November 30, 1868, and is the son of David J. and Judith (Moulton) Peabody. David J. Peabody was born in Herkimer county, New York, and came to Montcalm county, Michigan, purchasing a farm in Bushnell township. Judith Moulton was a native of Pennsylvania and moved to Ionia county, Michigan, where she met and married David J. Peabody. After their marriage, they located on his farm in Bushnell township and here they lived until his death, in 1899, when Mrs. Peabody left the farm and moved to Sheridan, where she now resides. Mr. Peabody was a well-to-do farmer, having accumulated all of his wealth by his own efforts. He was a prominent member of the Grange. Mr. and Mrs. David J. Peabody were the parents of four children: George W., the subject of this sketch; Mary P., who resides at home; Clara A., the wife of L. L. Leslie, of Sheridan, Michigan, and Frank I., who married Lura Wood and lives in Saginaw county, Michigan.

George W. Peabody was reared on a farm in Bushnell township and followed the routine of the ordinary farmer boy, attending school in the winter and working on the farm in the summer. After he was nineteen years of age he devoted all of his attention to work on the farm and remained at home until he was past twenty-five years of age. After his marriage he rented his mother's farm for three or four years, when he bought the farm which he now owns and moved to it, remaining there four years. At the end of this time he went back to the home farm and farmed it for three years, when he returned to his own farm, where he has lived ever since. His

farm consists of eighty acres of good land and is situated one and one-fourth miles west and two miles north of Fenwick, in section 11, of Fairplain township. Mr. Peabody is a progressive and up-to-date farmer and keeps the buildings on his farm in good repair and his farm in a high state of cultivation.

On May 2, 1894, George W. Peabody was married to Emma J. Staines, who was born in Bushnell township, August 15, 1869. She received all of her education at home, having been taught by her stepmother's father. To this union have been born three children, Foster, Norma and Ruth, all of whom are living at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Peabody is a Democrat, but has never taken a very active part in politics, practically all of his time being taken up with his personal interests. Fraternally, Mr. Peabody is a member of Fenwick Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Ancient Order of Gleaners.

JOHN MCGOWAN.

John McGowan, a prominent farmer of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, in August, 1852, the son of John and Lydia (Celia) McGowan. John McGowan, Sr., was born in Dumfries, Scotland, and came to the United States about 1835, locating in New York state, where he followed the trade of a cabinet-maker. He later moved to Defiance, Ohio, where he remained for some time, and then went to Canandaigua, Michigan, where he followed his trade for many years. Later he bought a farm in Lenawee county, near Canandaigua, and farmed there the remainder of his life. John McGowan, Sr., had been married in Scotland and to that union had been born one daughter, Margaret, but both wife and daughter died in that country. After coming to America, he married Lydia Celia, and to them were born three sons, two of whom are now living: William, a retired farmer in Fayette, Ohio, and John, the subject of this sketch.

John McGowan was reared on a farm in Michigan and attended the district schools of his home neighborhood. After completing the course in the common school, he also attended high school. After living on the farm for some time he sold it and moved to Fulton county, Ohio, where he owned a farm and where he lived a few years. He then sold this farm and went

to Battle Creek, Iowa, where he conducted a hotel for four years, being very prosperous in this business. In 1882, having previously purchased a farm in Montcalm county, Mr. McGowan sold out his hotel in Iowa and moved to this farm, where he has since resided. This farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres and is situated three and one-fourth miles south of Sheridan, in Fairplain and Bushnell townships. Mr. McGowan is a progressive and up-to-date farmer and his farm is well improved and modern in every respect.

John McGowan was married in 1888 to Nellie Miller, who was born in Ionia county, Michigan, and to them have been born two children, Harry, who is a graduate of the common schools and lives at home, and Flora E., who is a student in the Sheridan high school.

Like his father before him, Mr. McGowan is a stanch Republican in politics and has always taken an active interest in all political affairs, having served his township efficiently as treasurer and as commissioner. Fraternally, Mr. McGowan is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and his son, Harry, is also a member of this lodge. Because of his deep interest in all public affairs and his hearty co-operation with all measures which are for the good of the community, Mr. McGowan is popular and well liked throughout Montcalm county.

THOMAS W. WORDEN.

Thomas W. Worden, farmer, merchant, former postmaster and man of prominence in the affairs of Fenwick, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Niagara county, New York, June 10, 1856, the son of Alexander and Mary (Noddins) Worden, the former born in New York state, the latter in England, from which country she came to America with her parents and located in Niagara county, New York, when she was a small child.

Alexander Worden was a carpenter, a trade which he followed, together with general farming, until 1854, when the elder Worden moved to Michigan and located in Berlin township, of Ionia county, a place where Alexander Worden lived as a farmer for the remainder of his days. Alexander Worden was married, in Niagara county, New York, to Mary Noddins, and to this marriage were born three children, Adelbert, Anna (deceased) and Thomas W.

Thomas W. Worden received his education in the public schools of

Ionia county, Michigan, where he lived until twenty-eight years of age and then entered the general merchandise and farming business, a line of work which Mr. Worden followed until 1907, when he was appointed to the office as postmaster of Fenwick, in Montcalm county, an office which Thomas W. Worden occupied until September 1, 1915.

During the year 1880 Thomas W. Worden was married to Helen Bailey, and to them were born four children: Anna, who died in infancy; Frank, who since graduating from the Sheridan high school has operated the Fenwick elevator; Nellie, who died in infancy, and Robert, who after graduating from the Sheridan high school and the United States Telegraph Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, is now an employee of the Great Northern Railway Company, at Aaron Guard, North Dakota. During the year 1888 Helen, the wife of Thomas W. Worden, died, and after some time Mr. Worden was married, secondly, to Laura Heydlauf. To this marriage no children have been born.

Thomas W. Worden is a prominent member of the Congregational church at Fenwick, and has served this church as clerk for eight years and as superintendent of the Sunday school for some time. Mr. Worden is a member of Fenwick Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; he has served this organization as noble grand and he is a member of the grand lodge. Thomas W. Worden is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, Mr. Worden is an ardent Republican. Thomas W. Worden is the owner of one of the choice properties of Fenwick, Montcalm county, and he is the owner of one hundred and ten acres of land in Fairplain township.

EDWIN J. KINDELL.

Edwin J. Kindell, successful farmer and stockman, business man and prominent citizen of Fenwick, Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Richland township, Dekalb county, Indiana, September 1, 1857, the son of John S. and Sarah E. (Sherman) Kindell, natives of Wayne county, Ohio, and of Cayuga county, New York, respectively.

John S. Kindell moved to Dekalb county, Indiana, when he was a young man, where he lived as a farmer until August 15, 1862, when he enlisted in Company A, One Hundredth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil War, the elder Kindell having served with this command, first as a private and later as an adjutant, until his death, on January 11,

1863. John S. and Sarah E. Kindell were the parents of three children: Edwin J., Ida A., and Eunice, deceased. Later, Sarah E., the widow of John S. Kindell, was married, in 1864, to a Mr. Lockwood, and to this marriage were born two children, Della and Cora.

Edwin J. Kindell moved, with his mother, to Montcalm county, Michigan, one-half mile north of Fenwick, in 1869. When he was a small boy and after his school days he engaged in farming, working on a neighboring farm for S. W. Tompkins, who gave to Edwin J. Kindell the sum of one hundred dollars when he reached the age of twenty-one years. Two years later Edwin J. Kindell went to the state of Indiana, where he remained two years and then went to Ionia county, Michigan, and worked as a farmer for some time, after which he went to Shiloh, Michigan, near where he worked as a farmer for three years. Later, Edwin J. Kindell, with money which he had saved from his farm work, purchased sixty acres of unbroken and uncleared land, a place which Mr. Kindell improved, after which he purchased a farm of eighty acres in sections 23, 25 and 26, of Fairplain township, a place which is the present home of Mr. Kindell, who is now one of the prosperous farmers of Montcalm county. The farm of Edwin J. Kindell is known as "Pleasant View Farm." In addition to the general farm activities of Mr. Kindell, he is successfully engaged in the raising of high-grade live stock, his product in this line being of the best to be found in the community. Mr. Kindell is also the owner of considerable property in Fenwick.

On December 23, 1886, Edwin J. Kindell was united in marriage to Chloe Emery, a native of Ionia county, Michigan. Chloe, the wife of Edwin J. Kindell, died on March 22, 1892, since which time Ida, the sister of the deceased wife of Mr. Kindell, has acted as his housekeeper.

Edwin J. Kindell has been active in the political life of Fairplain township, having served as treasurer for two years and he now being the occupant of the office as justice of the peace, an office which Mr. Kindell has served most efficiently for many years. In politics, Edwin J. Kindell is an ardent Republican.

Mr. Kindell is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, he having served this lodge as master, and Edwin J. Kindell, with his sister, is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, No. 346. Of this lodge Mr. Kindell was the first to serve as worthy patron. Edwin J. Kindell is known as a man especially interested in education and he has served as a moderator and director for eighteen years.

RUDOLPH NEWTON.

Rudolph Newton, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in this township on August 1, 1873, on a farm just across the road from where he now lives, the son of James E. and Laura Jane (Skey) Newton. James E. Newton was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, June 16, 1843, the son of Charles Newton, who was born in Connecticut and came from that state to Ohio. He was a carpenter by trade and was a young man when he came to Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life, following his trade and helping to clear and improve the land. Laura Jane Skey was born in Jackson county, Michigan, September 18, 1853, the daughter of Octavius and Mary (Fay) Skey, the former of whom was descended from a noted English family, his father being a well-known physician. Octavius Skey was the eighth son in a family of thirteen children and came to Michigan and located near Detroit. He later moved to Jackson county, where he lived until 1855, when he came to Montcalm county, living there until his death. He was married in Jackson county to Mary Fay, and to them were born three children, a son and two daughters, of whom Laura Jane was the youngest and is the only one now living.

James E. Newton enlisted in Company E, Second Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, in the spring of 1861, this being the second regiment of cavalry to be mustered into service at Cleveland. He fought in the famous battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court House, and in May, 1864, was taken prisoner and confined in Libby and Salisbury prisons, where he was kept until the close of the war. He then returned to Ohio and remained there until the spring of 1867, when he came to Montcalm county and went to work on a farm in Eureka township. During the winters he worked in the timber and in the summers on farms until he had saved enough to purchase twenty acres in section 16, Fairplain township, which he improved and cultivated. In February, 1871, he was married to Laura Jane Skey and they immediately located on this farm, where they lived for five or six years, when they moved to another farm and lived until August, 1880. They then came to the farm where Rudolph Newton now lives and here James E. Newton died on September 19, 1905. His wife stil survives him and lives on this farm. They were the parents of only one child, Rudolph, the subject of this sketch.

Rudolph Newton received his education in Greenville and was grad-

uated from the Greenville high school in 1894 with a class of fifteen members, after which he taught school for two winters. After the death of his father he continued to operate the farm in Fairplain township, which consists of two hundred and thirty-five acres situated in section 9. Here he is engaged in general farming and stock raising, in which he has been very successful.

On August 5, 1903, Rudolph Newton was married to Ethel M. Henry, the daughter of Charles E. and Florence (Norton) Henry. To them have been born four children: James Ethelbert, born on August 29, 1904; Charles Henry, January 18, 1909; Rudolph, Jr., May 27, 1911, and Florence A., May 21, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton and family are members of the First Congregational church at Greenville and take an active interest in all religious affairs. Fraternally, Mr. Newton is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons. Politically, he is a Republican and has always taken an active part in local politics. He has served as clerk of his township for three terms and as school director of his home district.

MARVIN L. LOPER.

Marvin L. Loper is a native of Lenawee county, Michigan, and his birth occurred on October 4, 1874. He is the son of Charles and Nancy (Fisher) Loper. Charles Loper was of Irish and German descent and his wife of German descent. He was born in New York state and she in Lenawee county, Michigan. Her mother died when she was a child of eight years. To her and her husband were born seven children, all of whom are now living. Their names follow: Elmer, living in Bay county, Michigan; Jennie, wife of James Warner, of Lenawee county; Wayland, living in Midland county, Michigan; Louise, wife of Myron Blodgett and living in Fairplain township; William, living in Greenville, Michigan; Marvin L., and Joseph, who lives in Easton, Ionia county, Michigan.

Marvin L. Loper remained under the parental roof until sixteen years of age, at which time he began working for others. He spent one year in Howard City, Montcalm county, Michigan. On March 28, 1899, he was married to Lena Lutterloh, daughter of William and Amelia (Stuewer) Lutterloh, and they are the parents of three children: William, Helena and Lizzie. William and Amelia (Stuewer) Lutterloh were both natives of Ger-

many and emigrated to America with their parents, who located in Montcalm county, Michigan, and it was here that they met and married. To them were born three children, Lena, William and Lizzie, the latter dying when one year of age.

Marvin L. Loper accompanied his parents to Ionia county, Michigan, where they located in Lyons for nearly two years. At that time they purchased the farm on which they now live in Fairplain township. After his marriage, Marvin L. Loper was employed as a farm hand for some time, after which he was employed in Ionia City, Michigan. He then removed to Johnstown, Ionia county, Michigan, and purchased twenty acres of land but sold that property and rented a farm until he returned to Montcalm county, where he spent one year in the operation of his father's place. He then operated another place for eleven years, finally purchasing the land which he now owns. This place was bought in 1915, and consists of ninety-five acres, located in section 22, of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan. Politically, Marvin L. Loper is a staunch Republican. He built a new barn and made many other improvements on the place. He carries on general farming and raises Holstein and Durham cattle and Chester White hogs.

BERT R. SNOW.

Bert R. Snow, well-known business man and manufacturer of Fenwick, in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Ionia county, Michigan, April 28, 1880, the son of Albert H. and Hannah (Chase) Snow, natives of New York state. Albert H. Snow moved to Ionia county, Michigan, from his home in New York, during the year 1842, and settled in Ionia county, where, some time later, the elder Snow was married to Hannah Chase, who came to Ionia county with her parents. Albert H. and Hannah Snow are the parents of four children: Bert R., Clara H., who married William Krick; Chauncy, who married Jennie Rausch, and Adah M., who married Henry Mendonsa.

Bert R. Snow received his education in the schools of his native community and at the high school of Belding, Michigan, an institution from which he graduated with the class of 1899. For some time after the completion of his education Bert R. Snow engaged in general farming and then he became the owner of a feed barn and omnibus line at Ionia, Mr. Snow continuing in this business until 1911, when he moved to Fenwick and pur-

chased the Fenwick cheese factory, where Bert R. Snow is prosperously engaged in the manufacture of a special quality of pure cream cheese.

During the year 1900 Bert R. Snow was united in marriage to Catherine Ertelbuss, who was born in Montcalm county, Michigan, the daughter of George W. Ertelbuss and wife. To the marriage of Bert R. and Catherine Snow has been born one child, Zara, who is twelve years of age.

Bert R. Snow is a leading member of Ionia Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a citizen who is found in the front ranks of all movements and measures for the progress of the community and the advancement of its interests. In politics, Mr. Snow is an ardent Republican.

In addition to his regular business, Bert R. Snow is interested in the live-stock business, being a part owner of some of the choice breeding stock of the community and being a man whose knowledge and judgment on matters of live stock are of great value.

W. S. PHELPS.

W. S. Phelps is among those who have been active for the advancement of community interests and who have served in positions of trust. He was born on October 12, 1860, in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the son of Orrin and Elizabeth (Amsbury) Phelps. Orrin Phelps came to Michigan when a young man and it was near Eaton Rapids, of this state, that his marriage was solemnized. Helen Phelps, the sixth child born of the union of Orrin and Elizabeth (Amsbury) Phelps, was the first white child born in Sidney township, her birth having occurred in 1858. Soon after marriage they removed to Amsden and thence to Nevins lake, blazing their own trail. They located on the farm now owned by Archie Goodle. This place consisted of eighty acres of land, on which they resided for nearly fifteen years. During this period Orrin Phelps was engaged in the making of shingles, hauling them from the farm to Ionia, Michigan. Finally they removed to Amsden, Fairplain township, where they remained but a short time, finally locating on a farm four miles north of Ionia, in Ionia county. They purchased eighty acres of land with the intention of making that their permanent home, but soon disposed of it and removed to their former location near Amsden, where they purchased sixty acres known as the Amsbury farm, on which they continued to live for five years. That place was then sold and soon afterward the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Phelps

occurred. Orrin Phelps later engaged in the transfer business in Sheridan, Michigan, remaining in that until his health failed, when he removed to Eureka township, where he made his home with his children.

In 1872 W. S. Phelps was employed by William Rassmusen for four years, attending school at the same time. He then removed to Crystal township, where he was employed for four years by a Mr. Beck. Subsequently he entered the mill business and in 1881 he engaged in the agricultural field in Minnesota, returning to his home state and resuming work in the mill. In 1885 he began work on the George Siple farm, in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, this preceding subsequent periods of the same employment on other farms until September 19, 1888, at which time his marriage to Hattie A. Williams, daughter of John and Mary (Trumbull) Williams, was solemnized. He immediately located on a farm, where he remained for six years, at which time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Eureka township and remained there for eight years. The present farm was then purchased and they have since remained on this place. W. S. Phelps is a Republican in his political faith and has served as a justice of the peace of Fairplain township for two years. He also served as highway commissioner of Eureka township for two years and as school treasurer of the same place for two years. Fraternally, both he and his wife are members of Lodge No. 107, of the Rebekahs, in Greenville, Michigan. To the union of W. S. Phelps and Hattie (Williams) Phelps these children have been born: Ile A. (deceased), Leland S., Vivian C., Mabel E., Mildred E. and Orrin J. The father of these children is a member of the Greenville Lodge No. 458, Knights of the Maccabees, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also of the Gleaners and the Grange.

John Williams, father of Hattie A. (Williams) Phelps, was born in Niagara county, New York, near the town of Royalton, and is the son of Allen and Susan (Hutchens) Williams, both natives of Vermont. When four years of age John Williams removed with his parents to Wyoming county, New York, where he remained until 1857, at which time the family removed to Jackson county, Michigan, remaining there until the following spring. They then removed to Ionia county, where the death of the parents occurred. In 1857 John Williams accompanied his parents to Ionia county, remaining with them until 1859. On August 25, of that year, he was united in marriage to Mary E. Trumbull, daughter of Stephen and Wealthy (Cowels) Trumbull. Mary E. Trumbull was born in Palmyra township, Wayne county, New York, and moved to Kent county, Michigan, with her

brother in 1858. After their marriage they located on the William Rasmussen place, taking possession on November 16, 1859, and remaining until June, 1860. He then moved to the place on which he now lives and which he purchased in 1858. The original tract of land consisted of twenty acres, which has since been added to until he now owns one hundred and forty acres. He is a Republican in his political views and has been a member of Greenville Lodge No. 86, Free and Accepted Masons, since December, 1867.

S. CLAY SUMMERS.

Among the prominent farmers and stock raisers of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is S. Clay Summers, who was born in Oakland county, Michigan, on March 9, 1864, the son of Jacob G. and Mary B. (Hartung) Summers, natives of Oakland county, Michigan, and of the state of New Jersey, respectively.

Jacob G. Summers came to Montcalm county and settled at Sheridan about 1875, he there serving as the first marshal and being the first hotel keeper of the community. Later, Jacob G. Summers served Montcalm county as deputy sheriff, as under-sheriff and then, in 1884, the elder Summers was elected to the office as sheriff, serving in that capacity for four years. Jacob G. Summers for some years was a farmer, cultivating forty acres of land in Day township. Jacob G. and Mary B. Summers were the parents of two children, S. Clay, and Mina, who is deceased. Jacob G. Summers died on December 16, 1909, after a long and useful life, full of service to his community; Mary B. Summers died on April 17, 1915.

After his early education, which he received in the common schools of his native county, S. Clay Summers, when nineteen years of age, went to Traverse City, Michigan, where he engaged in the hardware business for two years and then came to Stanton, Montcalm county, for two years, after which S. Clay Summers became a farmer, later returning to Stanton, where he engaged in business for two years, and then, again returned to farm life on one hundred and sixty acres of land, located equally in Fairplain and Bushnell townships, of Montcalm county, near Sheridan.

On November 16, 1886, S. Clay Summers was married to Edith A. Willet, a daughter of J. W. and Mary Annette (Germaine) Willett. To the marriage of S. Clay and Edith A. Summers have been born five children: William, who died in infancy; Esther J., who, after special instruction at

the Montcalm County Normal School and at Olivet College, has been, for two years, a teacher in the kindergarten of the Stanton schools; Helen, a graduate of the Montcalm County Normal School, who is now a teacher in the schools of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; George Germaine, a student in the grade schools of Sheridan, and Ruth Marian, who is a student in the Sheridan schools. S. Clay Summers and his family are members of the Congregational church at Sheridan, they taking an active part in the work and worship of this congregation.

S. Clay Summers is a member of Pine Grove Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, including the encampment, at Stanton, and is a man who takes an active part in all movements and affiliations which seek to better conditions in the locality and the county. In politics, S. Clay Summers is an ardent Republican.

JAMES BARCLAY.

James Barclay, well-known farmer and highly-respected citizen of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Shropshire, England, on March 19, 1867, a son of Joseph and Jane (Beaumont) Barclay, natives of England.

Joseph Barclay came to America in 1870 and located at Orleans Station, Ionia county, Michigan, where he worked as a general worker for some months and then sent for his family, who reached America and Ionia county, Michigan, during the month of September, of the same year. After about one year as a farm helper on various farms near Orleans Station, Joseph Barclay went to the town of Belding, Ionia county, where he worked in a saw-mill and as a farm worker for five years, and then bought a farm in Orleans township, a place which he cultivated for some time and then moved to a farm near the town of Greenville, Montcalm county, where he spent his last days. Joseph and Jane Barclay were the parents of eight children: Sarah, who is deceased; William, of Portland, Ionia county, Michigan; Elizabeth, the wife of Jasper Smith, of Lake View, Michigan; Mary, of Greenville, Montcalm county; Joseph, of Lake View; James, the subject of this sketch; George, of Greenville, and Esther, the wife of James Mumbay, of Winfield township, Montcalm county.

James Barclay received his education in the public schools of Ionia and this county, after which he became a farmer, working on the home place until thirty-one years of age, when, having married, James Barclay cul-

tivated the old homestead for three years more and then, after one year at Greenville, Mr. Barclay purchased eighty acres of land in section 23, Fairplain township, near the town of Fenwick, where James Barclay now is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

On November 22, 1898, James Barclay was married to Mariah Schouten, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Schouten, natives of New York state and Pennsylvania, respectively. They settled in Eureka township and farmed there. Both are now dead.

James Barclay, in politics, is an ardent Republican, although he has preferred to serve as a private citizen, rather than as an office-holder or office-seeker. Mr. Barclay is a man who is interested in the development of the various interests and resources of the community and is a citizen who has done no small part in the bringing about of the present good conditions of life and activity in Montcalm county. Mrs. Barclay is a member of the Maccabees at Fenwick, Michigan.

JAMES FROST.

James Frost is one of the active business men of Fenwick, Montcalm county, Michigan, being the owner and manager of the hotel of this town. He is a native of Kent county, England, his birth having occurred on March 22, 1848. He is the son of John and Rebecca (Tallast) Frost, who emigrated to America in 1858 and located in Orleans county, New York, where the husband and father died three months later. The mother and her children remained in that state for some years and then removed to Michigan, where they located in Bushnell township, Montcalm county, and it was here that the mother died. She and her husband were the parents of eight children, five of whom are now living: John, who died in Buffalo, New York, in 1915; Rebecca, widow of H. Bennett, of northern Michigan; Susan lives near Edmore, Michigan; James; Mary died at sixteen years of age; Harriett is the wife of Noah Bennett; Robert lives near Edmore, Michigan, and George, who died in New York state.

James Frost remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, at which time he was employed at various occupations. He later purchased forty acres of land on which he located. He was married to Emma Allchin, and to them were born two children, Monte, who is living in Fairplain township, and Sadie, who lives in Palo, Michigan. The mother of these

children died in 1884, and James Frost was then married to Elizabeth Loree, the date of wedding being February 23, 1887. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Emily (Rinker) Loree, both natives of Canada. They were the parents of four children and they came to the United States when their daughter, Elizabeth, was but two years of age. They remained in this locality until she was sixteen years of age and then removed to Virginia. After a time they returned to Lenawee county, Michigan, and thence to this county. James Frost and his wife, Elizabeth (Loree) Frost, are the parents of one child, Muriel, who was born on December 13, 1896, and died on August 25, 1915. Elizabeth (Loree) Frost is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Ladies of the Maccabees, of Fenwick, Michigan. James Frost is a Republican in his political views.

CHRIS LARSEN.

Chris Larsen, prominent farmer and one of the best-known men of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Denmark on April 6, 1863, the son of Hans Larsen, who lived all his life in his native country. Hans Larsen was the father of eight children.

Chris Larsen came to America in 1882, and being without means he worked in the lumber mills of Montcalm county, Michigan, and as a farm helper on the farms of the locality until he was twenty-one years of age. He then bought a farm of mostly uncleared land in Fairplain township, which he has cleared of brush and timber and which he has improved until now he is the owner of two hundred acres of good land, the greater part of which is under the cultivation of Mr. Larsen, one of the most successful and progressive farmers of the county.

During the year 1888 Chris Larsen was married to Dortha Hanson, a native of Lyons, Michigan, and to this marriage have been born eight children, John, Charles, Harry, Arthur, Abbie, Levi, Christena and Robert. Mr. Larsen and his family are active members of the Danish Lutheran church, they taking a leading part in the work and worship of this denomination in Fairplain township. Chris Larsen is also a member of the Danish Brotherhood in his community.

Chris Larsen has taken a prominent place in the political affairs of Fairplain township, being best known as the able highway commissioner of Montcalm county, in the region of Sheridan, an office which Mr. Larsen

has occupied for ten years, to the satisfaction of the people of Fairplain township and vicinity, who have profited by the unselfish efforts of this progressive man in his work for better roads. In politics, Chris Larsen is a Republican.

Chris Larsen is past noble grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a lodge which he has represented as a delegate to the grand lodge on four occasions; he is a leading member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and Mr. Larsen is a man who in all movements for the progress of the community is found in the lead. Chris Larsen is one of the esteemed and honored men of Fairplain township.

OTTO CUMMINGS.

Otto Cummings, well-known druggist at Stanton, this county, recognized as one of the most enterprising and up-to-date young merchants in that city, is a native son of Michigan and has lived in this state all his life. He was born at North Branch, Lapeer county, this state, December 24, 1884, and his early schooling was obtained in the schools of Clifford, this state. Upon completing the course in the schools there he was engaged in teaching school for three years, at the end of which time he entered the pharmacy department of Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, from which he was graduated in 1914, with the degree of Graduate of Pharmacy. Upon receiving his certificate from the state pharmacy board, whose rigid examination he passed with an average of ninety-one, standing second in the list of one hundred and five candidates, he entered the employ of the Big Rapids pharmacy at Big Rapids, as registered pharmacist and chemist, continuing thus employed for eighteen months, during which time he obtained a very fine practical knowledge of the drug business. In 1915 he came over into Montcalm county and bought the Swift drug store at Stanton, which he has been operating ever since and in which business he has been very successful.

Upon taking charge of his store at Stanton, Mr. Cummings began the application of thoroughly up-to-date methods to his business and put into the same his very best efforts, with the result that he has come to be recognized as one of the most energetic and progressive business men in that city and has built up a fine trade in his line. He makes a specialty of prescription work and is admirably equipped for the very best possible service in that line. He often is called upon to make difficult chemical analyses and is

widely recognized as a chemist of ability. He carries, in addition to his carefully selected and comprehensive stock of pure drugs, a full and complete line of druggist's sundries and such other articles as are sought in drug stores and gives careful and studious attention to the requirements of his trade. Mr. Cummings is a Republican and gives proper attention to local political affairs. He is a Mason and takes a warm interest in the affairs of that ancient order, and as a citizen is deeply interested in all movements having to do with the advancement of the common welfare hereabout.

In November, 1909, Otto Cummings was united in marriage to Edna Cuthbert, of Marrietta, this state, and since taking up their residence in Stanton both he and his wife have taken an earnest and intelligent interest in the various social and cultural activities of their home town.

GEORGE P. WICKES.

George P. Wickes, merchant, farmer and prominent citizen of Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Grand Rapids township, Kent county, Michigan, on November 21, 1860, the son of Alexander C. and Sophia (Snyder) Wickes, natives of Rensselaer county, New York.

Alexander C. Wickes, following his marriage, came to Michigan, and as the first of this family located in Ottawa county, where he lived for one year and then moved to Kent county, later the elder Wickes and his family, about 1872, returning to Ottawa county, which was their home until 1883, when they came to Montcalm county, and bought a farm in section 36, Day township, where Alexander Wickes lived for the remainder of his days. Alexander and Sophia Wickes were the parents of four children: George P., the subject of this sketch; Alexander I., who lives on the old homestead in Day township; Earnest, who moved to the state of Washington, where he died, and Frederick A., who lives on the home place.

George P. Wickes was reared in Kent county, where he was educated and where he lived until twelve years of age, when he moved to Ottawa county, and then came to Montcalm county. When about twenty-one years of age Mr. Wickes engaged in the lumber business, following this line of work for a number of years, after which he worked in the woods and in the saw-mills of that region for the next decade, during this time being employed for five years with the Cutter & Savage Company, of Spring Lake. Later, George P. Wickes purchased his present farm in Day township, a place on

which he had worked with his brother a part of the time when he was a lumberman. Here Mr. Wickes has lived as a successful farmer for some years, not only cultivating his farm of eighty acres, but at the same time conducting a general store in Day township.

On April 5, 1883, George P. Wickes was married to Winnie Hanninger, a daughter of John Hanninger and wife, of Ottawa county, Michigan. To the marriage of George P. and Winnie Wickes have been born three children: Earnest Earl and LeRoy C., who live at home, and Myrtle, who is the wife of Earl Rogers, of Day township. Mr. Wickes and his family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Wickes being a steward of this church.

George P. Wickes has been active in the political and official life of Day township, he having served as justice of the peace, as well as having been the occupant of other offices, among which was a place on the township school board. In political affiliation Mr. Wickes is a Republican.

HARRY CARHART STARR.

Harry Carhart Starr, well-known real-estate dealer at Greenville, this county, is a native son of that city, having been born there on September 12, 1870, son of Charles Henry and Kate Thompson (Mattison) Starr, well-known and prominent among the earlier residents of Montcalm county, the former of whom died at his home in that city on January 26, 1915.

Charles H. Starr was born in the state of New York, son of Vocious and Lucinda (Turner) Starr, prominent residents of Ithaca, the former of whom had an honorable record as a soldier during the War of 1812. Charles H. Starr grew up at Ithaca and when the Civil War broke out was the first person in that city to enroll his name in answer to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers to put down the rebellion against the flag of the Union. Upon the conclusion of the three-months service he veteranized as a member of Company I, Thirty-second Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, enlisting for two years. After a sometime service in that regiment he transferred to Battery L, First New York Light Artillery, with which he served valiantly until the close of the war. At the close of his military service, Charles H. Starr married Kate Thompson Mattison, who was born in New Jersey; daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Coleman) Mattison, both of whom were born at Washington, New Jersey. Shortly after their marriage,

Charles H. Starr and wife came to Michigan and settled at Greenville, this county, where they took a prominent part in the general life of that community and the development of the general interests of the same, both being held in the very highest esteem thereabout.

Harry C. Starr was born and reared at Greenville, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that city, and has lived there all his life. After following various pursuits, Mr. Starr began writing fire insurance in January, 1907, and presently increased the scope of his business to include insurance in all its branches. He also entered the real-estate market and it was not long until he became recognized as one of the most active dealers in realty in this part of the state. While city property has been his specialty, his rental agency being the largest in the city, Mr. Starr also does an extensive business in farm lands throughout Montcalm county and in the neighboring counties of Kent, Ionia and Mecosta. He maintains his office at his home, 407 East Grove street, in the city of Greenville, and is widely known throughout this section as one of the most progressive and enterprising dealers in his line hereabout.

Mr. Starr is a Democrat, but never has been an aspirant for a political office, taking little part in local political activities, being quite content to give his strict attention to his extensive and growing real-estate business. Mr. Starr has established a fine reputation as a realty dealer throughout this section of the state and is held in high regard by the entire community.

W. V. CROCKETT.

W. V. Crockett, whose well regulated and highly productive farm is located in Home township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens, was born on February 21, 1872, in Jefferson township, Hillsdale county, Michigan. He springs from sturdy pioneer stock, his parents having migrated from the Buckeye state to Michigan in the early days of its history. His father, L. V. Crockett, was not only a pioneer but a soldier of the Civil War as well, giving the best of his manhood and courage to defend and establish the great principles of American ideals. L. V. Crockett was a native of Ohio, but found a broader field for his endeavors in the state of his adoption. He is a Republican and has the deep courage of his convictions on all party issues. He still enjoys the companionship of friends and neighbors in his home in Edmore, Montcalm

county, Michigan. Mary Elizabeth (Bachelor) Crockett, wife of L. V. Crockett, also was a native of Ohio, and was married there. Her death occurred in 1892.

W. V. Crockett is indebted to the district schools for his early schooling and to the high school of Pittsford, Michigan, for his later years of instruction. Some few years following his marriage he located on eighty acres of land in Home township, of this county, where the family still reside. He has been very active in the civic life of the community and is now serving as township supervisor. Politically, W. V. Crockett is a Republican and is very active in local elections. His fraternal affiliations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of Gleaners.

When twenty-one years of age W. V. Crockett was united in marriage to Clara Belle Rarrick, and three children were born of their union, Arthur and Clifford, who live at home, and Mrs. Leon Aldrich, of Flint, Michigan. Clara Belle (Rarrick) Crockett is a native of Penn Yan, New York.

CLARENCE L. DYER.

Among the successful farmers and citizens who are prominently connected with the public life of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Clarence L. Dyer, who was born in Ferris township, this county, October 2, 1880, a son of Franklin H. and Mary L. (Barber) Dyer, a sketch of whose lives is presented elsewhere in this volume under the name of Mrs. Mary L. Chambers.

Clarence L. Dyer received his early education in the common schools of Ferris township, this county, after which he became a student at the Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, Michigan, for the same time. He then was a salesman in North Dakota and Minnesota for about a year, then returning to Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, where he took up agricultural life on his farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in which he has been engaged for the greater part of the time since. From the year 1901 to 1908 Mr. Dyer conducted a general store at Ferris Center, also acting as postmaster at this place until the office was abolished on account of the coming of the rural delivery.

During the year 1902 Clarence L. Dyer was married to Cora I. Holland, who was born in Evergreen township, near Stanton, Montcalm county, and to this marriage have been born two children, Franklin Charles and George

Norman. Cora I. (Holland) Dyer is a daughter of Charles and Rhoda (Reynolds) Holland, the former born in Warren, Pennsylvania, a son of George and Sarah Holland; the latter born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, a daughter of Chauncy and Tryphena Reynolds.

George Holland was born in England, the son of an English lord, was educated in the schools of England, and then some years later was married to Sarah Rogers, a native of Ireland, born of peasant parents, as a result of which marriage George Holland was disowned by his parents, he then, in 1864, coming to America and homesteading one hundred and sixty acres of land near Holland lake, Michigan. George Holland became a man of prominence in this community, being elected at the first election as supervisor, an office which he occupied until his death, in 1887. George Holland, Jr., a son of the elder Holland, served as a supervisor of Sidney township, Montcalm county, for twenty years.

Charles Holland grew to maturity in Evergreen township, this county, living amid pioneer surroundings and receiving his education in the common schools of the district. Following his marriage, Mr. Holland secured a farm adjoining that of his father, and after some time, during which he was compelled to suffer many hardships and privations, he prospered as a farmer and, in 1887, moved to Douglass township, Montcalm county, where he lived as a farmer until 1896. Charles Holland then moved to Stanton and engaged in the hardware business, in which he continued some time, until finding that his credit business was causing him loss, Mr. Holland retired from the mercantile field at Stanton, and went to the state of North Dakota, living there for two years and then moving to Myrtle Creek, Douglass county, Oregon, where he homesteaded two hundred and eighty acres of land which he now cultivates as a successful farmer.

When nineteen years of age, Charles Holland was married to Rhoda Reynolds, who was sixteen years of age. She was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, from whence she moved, after the death of her father, when she was ten years of age, her mother having died when she was an infant, to Sidney township, Montcalm county, and made her home with her sister, Mrs. Edward Porter, now of Douglass township, this county. Charles and Rhoda Holland are the parents of six children, two girls and four boys.

Clarence L. Dyer has taken a leading place in the official life of Ferris township, having been elected to the office of township treasurer in 1904, an office to which he was re-elected in 1908. During the year 1906 Mr. Dyer was elected as clerk of Ferris township, which office he occupied until he

resigned because of his removal from the county to North Dakota, after returning from which place Mr. Dyer was a member of the county council, serving in this capacity for two years.

Clarence L. Dyer is a prominent Mason of Ferris township and, together with his wife, is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Dyer is a member of the Church of Christ.

CHARLES H. MARVIN.

Charles H. Marvin, well-known and highly-respected farmer of Day township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Onondaga county, New York, on August 10, 1843, the son of John L. and Mary (Steele) Marvin, both of whom were born in Onondaga county, New York. John L. Marvin lived on his farm in New York state until sixteen years of age, when he came, with his parents to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he spent the remainder of his days as a pioneer farmer.

After his school days Charles H. Marvin lived at home until 1863, when he enlisted as a soldier for service in the Civil War, with the Eleventh Michigan Cavalry, a command with which Mr. Marvin served, as a part of the western army, under General Stoneman, for the remainder of the war, during the period of his service Charles H. Marvin having at one time been slightly wounded, while on three different occasions he was captured as a prisoner of war, although at each time he was able to escape or arrange for his release.

Following the close of the Civil War, Charles H. Marvin returned to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he followed his trade as a stone and brick-mason for some time and then, on February 19, 1878, Mr. Marvin came to Montcalm county and located near the town of Stanton, where he was employed in a shingle-mill until the following year, when he went to McBride, working in the woods near that town for about one year. About this time Mr. Marvin purchased a house and lot at McBride, a place which he later traded for a farm of fifty acres located east of McBride, on this place Charles H. Marvin making his home until March, 1911, when he traded his farm for another farm located about three miles southwest of McBride, in Day township, a place where Mr. Marvin now lives and engages in general agricultural pursuits. In addition to his farm in Day township,

Charles H. Marvin is the owner of a farm of forty acres in Douglass township, Montcalm county.

Prior to the days of his agricultural life, Charles H. Marvin was a mason of unusual ability for more than thirty years, some of the best work of this and other communities having been the result of his efforts. In partnership with Mr. Fox, Charles H. Marvin was the builder of the Neffs Bank building at McBride.

On December 27, 1868, Charles H. Marvin was married to Delia Jones, who was born in 1853, at Adrian, Michigan, the daughter of George and Charlotte (Spatch) Jones, natives of New York state. To the marriage of Charles H. and Delia Marvin have been born the following children: Clarence, who married Anna Tucker, who died ten years after their marriage, leaving three children, Viva, Otto and Vera; Lena, who is the wife of John Ball, of Grand Rapids, they being the parents of three children, Merle, Erma and Kenneth; Alice, who is the wife of Pearl Smith, of Holland, Michigan, to them having been born three children, Clifford and Clayton, twins, and Lloyd; Hulda, the wife of Earl Stewart, of Holland, Michigan; Floyd, who is a telegraph operator for the Western Union Telegraph Company, at Sparta, Wisconsin, and Earl, who married Winnie Morse, they living on the home farm.

MRS. MARY L. (BARBER) CHAMBERS.

Mrs. Mary L. (Barber) Chambers, one of the best-known and most highly esteemed women of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Auglaise county, Ohio, September 21, 1859, a daughter of John and Delilah (Lockhart) Barber.

John Barber moved to Montcalm county, Michigan, in 1864 and located about one-half mile west of Ferris Center, where he purchased eighty acres of pine timber land, which he proceeded to clear and prepare for cultivation, until March, 1865, when he was drafted for military service in the Civil War. Although suffering from failing health, Mr. Barber joined his regiment but was removed to the military hospital before he was engaged in active service. Later, John Barber was relieved of his military service and returned home, dying in the month of June, 1866. Following the death of her husband, Delilah Barber was married, secondly, to Henry Trim, who now is deceased, his widow now living in Crystal township, north of Crystal lake.

Mary L. Barber lived at home until she was eleven years of age and then started to make her own way in the world. She first accepted a position at which she earned one dollar and a half per week, saving her money with which she educated herself in the local public schools and later at the high schools of Stanton, Montcalm county, and Ionia, Ionia county. Following the completion of her education, Mary L. Barber became a school teacher, teaching one year at Ferris Center, this county.

While engaged in her professional work, Mary L. Barber met Franklin H. Dyer, and on December 18, 1879, they were married. To this union were born two children: Clarence L. and Lona M., the wife of W. J. Wilson, a farmer of Ferris township, they being the parents of two children, Dorothy Eleanor and Mary Louise.

Franklin H. Dyer was born in Oakland county, Michigan, and with his parents, John Dyer and wife, together with his four brothers, came to Greenville, Montcalm county, about 1856, settling in Day township, where the mother died. The father then married, secondly, after which the family moved to a place east of Ferris Center, where the elder Dyer lived as a farmer and lumberman for the remainder of his days.

After the death of his mother, when he was fourteen years of age, Franklin H. Dyer prepared to make his way in the world without assistance, engaging in hunting and trapping and learning the survey stakes which indicated the geography of the land, he was in great demand among the early settlers who were seeking their claims. While serving as a guide, Franklin H. Dyer became associated with a Mr. Stanchfield, of Detroit, a prominent lumberman, who employed Mr. Dyer when he was seventeen years of age, his work consisting in the foremanship of a log-running gang, operating on the Pine river, to Saginaw, Michigan. Mr. Dyer was a foreman on the river in the woods until 1879, when he retired from this work to devote his time to his farm and timber land interests which he had started in 1860, farming in the summer and engaging in his lumber work in the winters.

As a farmer, Franklin H. Dyer was notably successful, owning about five hundred acres of land which he cultivated generally and from which he sold considerable lumber. Mr. Dyer lived as a farmer in Ferris township until his death, which occurred on April 27, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer were the parents of two children, Clarence L. and Lena M. Mr. Dyer was active in the political and official life of his community, serving in the offices of township clerk, township treasurer, as highway commissioner and for several years was a township supervisor. Fraternally, Franklin H. Dyer was a Mason. In politics, he was an ardent Republican.

Some time after the death of her husband, Mrs. Mary L. (Barber) Dyer was married, in December, 1892, to Matthew E. Chambers, who was born in Holly, Michigan, a son of Matthew and Mary Chambers, natives of England, who came to America and settled in Ohio and after living there for a time they moved to Holly, Michigan. After the birth of Matthew Chambers, Jr., the family moved to Vickeryville, Montcalm county, where the elder Chambers and his wife spent their last days. Matthew Chambers lived on the home farm until after his marriage, when he became a general farmer of Ferris township, living there until his death, in 1906. Matthew and Mary L. Chambers were the parents of one child, Leta Glee, who died when thirteen years of age. Since the death of her late husband, Mrs. Chambers has lived on her farm in Ferris township, near Ferris Center, Montcalm county, where she has made her home for the greater part of the time during the past thirty-six years. Mrs. Chambers is a member of the Christian church, in Ferris township, and is one of the honored residents of the community.

GEORGE D. COUCHMAN.

George D. Couchman, a farmer, lives on rural route No. 1, Greenville, Michigan; his farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres of land, located four miles east of Greenville. He was born in Ionia county, Michigan, November 15, 1872, and was the son of David and Mary (McLarney) Couchman. David Couchman was born in England, in November, 1820, and died in March, 1904, in Montcalm county, Michigan. He came with his parents to the United States in 1827 and located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he grew to manhood, and was married there, after which event he came to Ionia county, Michigan. He was a carpenter and contractor. He first began work as a sailor, at the age of thirteen years, and made thirteen trips across the Atlantic ocean; then he quit that work, and learned the trade of carpenter with his brother, and together they contracted and builded in Baltimore. When he settled in Ionia county, he bought eighty acres of unimproved land in Osage township; and owned some good farm land. He was a quiet and honorable citizen. His wife was a native of Baltimore, Maryland. She died in Montcalm county, in 1909. She was a member of the Catholic church, and the mother of one son.

George D. Couchman was reared on a farm in Ionia county, Michigan, until he was about nineteen years of age, when his parents moved to Mont-

calm county. His education was obtained in the common schools of Ionia county, Michigan, attending school in winter and working on the farm during the summer months. He married Maude Rasmusen, December 8, 1892; she was born in Ionia, Michigan, and she attended the common schools and later became a teacher in the district schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Couchman have one son, J. D., who was born on July 10, 1897, and he is a graduate of the Greenville high school of 1915. During the four years he was in the high school he was tardy one time and absent seven days

Mr. Couchman is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons. In politics, he is a Republican; and was clerk three years and justice of the peace for six years. Mr. Couchman is a quiet and respected citizen Fairplain township.

JENS P. HANSEN.

Jens J. Hansen, a merchant and also postmaster of Meller, Michigan, was born in Denmark, October 22, 1872, a son of Christian and Mary Hansen, who were reared and married in Denmark. They came to the United States in 1873 and located in Greenville, Michigan. He became a well-to-do farmer through his own efforts and resided there until his death. He was the father of nine children, six of whom were living in 1915: Jens P., Sophia, Fred, Sina, Henry and Anna.

Jens P. Hansen was six months old when he came to Montcalm county, Michigan. He attended the common schools in the winter and worked on his father's farm during the summer, until he was twenty-one years of age, after which he was employed by his father until he reached the age of twenty-four, when he was married to Christena Nelson. She was born in Denmark and came to the United States at the age of six years. Her education was obtained in the common schools. There were five children by the marriage, two of whom are dead. Of those living, Clarence graduated from the common schools; Violet is a student in the common schools, and Don is the youngest. His wife, Christena, died in 1908. He was afterward married to Mata Nelson and they have one child, Helen. He is a liberal supporter of the church; a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 32, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. He is a buyer and shipper of produce at Miller Station and has served as postmaster six years. In politics, he is a Republican.

LAFORREST HIRAM DOLLOFF.

LaForest Hiram Delloff, successful farmer, well-known veteran of the Civil War, and a highly respected citizen of Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Orange township, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, on November 29, 1844, a son of Hezekiah and Sarah (Webster) Dolloff, natives of Maine, the former a son of Thomas Dolloff and wife, of Vermont.

Hezekiah Dolloff, about 1866, moved from his New England home to Owosso, Michigan, where he lived for two years and then moved to Ferris township, Montcalm county, locating in section 27, of this township, land which at that time was uncleared of the timber. The elder Dolloff proceeded to clear his land, add improvements and generally prepare his place for cultivation, Hezekiah Dolloff living on this land for the remainder of his days, he dying in 1886, his wife having preceded him in death by about four years. Hezekiah and Sarah Dolloff were the parents of four children, Cotton W., LaForest H., Elvira and Amanda.

LaForest H. Dolloff lived at home with his parents until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted for service in the Union army and was detailed as a teamster, a capacity in which he acted for the whole of the war. After receiving his honorable discharge at the end of the war, Mr. Dolloff joined his parents at their home in Ferris township, this county, where he lived until his marriage, when he engaged in teaming, hauling supplies over the rough and poorly broken roads joining the pioneer towns of this county and the vicinity. Afterwards, LaForest H. Dolloff bought forty acres of land in section 33, Ferris township, Montcalm county, where he lived for five years and then, selling his land, Mr. Delloff purchased a farm across the road, land which was the old home of his father. Shortly before the death of his father, LaForest H. Dolloff moved to the home place, which he cultivated and which he secured after the death of the elder Dolloff, and on this farm he is now living, successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

During the month of March, 1867, LaForest Hiram Dolloff was married to Arvilla Coville, who was born at Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and who, after the death of her mother and father, became a school teacher, she at one time teaching Mr. Dolloff, to whom she was later married. It is related that Arvilla Coville, when a school teacher of the community, came to the home of the parents of Mr. Dolloff to visit with the

girls in the family and it was while here that LaForest H. and Arvilla determined to marry, they carrying out their plans without delay. To the marriage of LaForest H. and Arvilla Dolloff were born nine children: Howard Coville, Ernest Elme, Mary Belle, Alma Pearl, Wilson, George, Anna, Earl, and Emma, who died in infancy. Mrs. Arvilla Dolloff died in November, 1902.

LaForest Hiram Dolloff is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, he having affiliated himself with this organization about 1877. Mr. Dolloff is a Universalist, his grandfather having been a preacher of this denomination and his father having been a prominent member and worker in this church. Mr. Dolloff is one of the esteemed men of Montcalm county, his kindly manner and pleasing personality having won for him a host of friends and admirers.

WILLARD C. RASMUSEN.

Willard C. Rasmusen is township treasurer and a farmer living on route No. 2, Sheridan, Michigan, and the proprietor of one hundred acres of land located six miles east of Greenville, Michigan, in Fairplain township. He was born in the township on September 30, 1871, a son of Henry and Ora (Lampman) Rasmusen. His father was born in the state of New York, March 20, 1839, and was a son of William Rasmusen, who was born in Oswego, New York, who came to Michigan in 1848, and located in Fairplain township, where he lived until his death. His wife died in 1869. He was a soldier in the Civil War. Of his children four were living in 1915; Ella, wife of Henry Kent; Sarah, wife of Nathaniel Sanders; Anna, wife of George W. Smith; Josephine, wife of William Workman.

Henry A. Rasmusen was nine years old when he came to Montcalm county, was educated in the district school, and married to Ora Lampman in 1863. Their children are Fred, a farmer in Brown county, South Dakota; Edith, wife of Oliver Champlain; Helen, wife of James Redhouse; Willard C.; Bertha, wife of Frank Dickerson of Putney, South Dakota.

Willard C. Rasmusen was reared in Fairplain township and attended the district schools in winter, and in the summer months worked on the farm, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. He worked for several years at different occupations, and was married on January 20, 1915, to Jessie Hewitt. She was born in Canada and educated in the com-

mon schools, and came to Belding, Ionia county, Michigan. She was the widow of Vern Hewitt, and the mother of two children by him; Clara B. and Lewis.

Mr. Rasmusen is a member of Fenwick Lodge No. 517, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Is a Republican in politics and was elected treasurer of Fairplain township in April, 1914, and is still in office. He is a quiet, unassuming man and an honorable citizen of Montcalm county, where he has spent his life.

WILLIAM P. LUNN.

William P. Lunn, ex-register of deeds of Montcalm county, Michigan, is now a farmer in Fairplain township, and was born in Macomb county, Michigan, September 30, 1842, son of George and Hannah (Thirsk) Lunn. His father was born in England in March, 1799, and was reared in that country. His education in the schools of that country was limited. He became a farmer and was a foreman on a large farm, and came to the United States in 1833. Hannah Thirsk was also born in England, in 1800, and was well educated for her time. After her marriage to George Lunn, they came to the United States and located in Detroit, Michigan, at which time their means were quite limited. Later, he purchased a small farm in Macomb county, Michigan, upon which he lived until 1843, when he traded that farm for one hundred and twenty acres, where William P. Lunn now resides, but which at that time was in woods. He made the trip to this farm with three teams of oxen, and here he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. He was a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their eight children, two were living in 1915. They are, George N., who is an orange farmer near Los Angeles, California, and William P.

William P. Lunn was a lad five years old when he and his parents located in Montcalm county, Michigan. When old enough he attended the district schools of his neighborhood in the winter season and worked on the farm during the remainder of the year, until he enlisted in the Civil War. He served in Company A, Twenty-first Michigan Infantry Volunteers, from August 5, 1862, until June 10, 1865, and was with his regiment at all times and in all battles in which it participated. The regiment was a part of the Army of the Cumberland, and was with General Sherman on his march to the sea. He enlisted as a private and was discharged as a duty sergeant.

At the close of the war Mr. Lunn returned to the old farm in Fairplain township, where he then owned eighty acres, and later purchased eighty additional and one hundred acres of timber land, making in all two hundred and sixty acres. On June 24, 1868, he married Eusebia B. Sprague, who was born in Ionia county, Michigan, and who died in December, 1896, the mother of three children. These children are Guy W., a graduate of the Greenville high school and of the electrical engineering department of the state university, and is chief electrician of Fisk Station, Edison Lighting Company of Chicago; Ernest, also a graduate of Greenville high school, and of the state university, is now in Chicago with the Pullman Car Company, and Bertha who is a graduate of the Greenville high school and attended school at Lansing, Michigan, is the wife of William Wycoff, a farmer.

Mr. Lunn was married later to Mrs. Almira Chaffee, on June 3, 1898. She was a native of Kent county, Michigan. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is recording steward, and is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Greenville, Michigan. In politics, he is a Republican. He served six years as superintendent of his township and was register of deeds of Montcalm county, Michigan, from 1895 to 1898, inclusive. He moved from Stanton to Greenville, where he lived two years, and then came to the farm where he now resides. Mr. Lunn is a quiet unassuming man, and an honorable citizen of Montcalm county, and is now justice of the peace of his township.

WILSON WHEELER.

Wilson Wheeler, well-known and prominent farmer living near Miller, in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Fairplain township on October 1, 1856, the son of Squire W. and Eliza (Buchanan) Wheeler, the former a native of Ireland.

Squire W. Wheeler came with his family to America in 1855, and settled in Montcalm county, where he engaged in general farming until October 23, 1861, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War and served until 1864, when he died as a prisoner of war in Salisbury prison. Squire W. and Eliza Wheeler were the parents of the following children: Sofia, Frances, George B., Mary, Elizabeth and Wilson, the latter of whom is the only one who survives.

Wilson Wheeler was educated in the public schools of his native town-

ship, after which he became a lumberman, working in the woods of his community for five years. Later, having married, Mr. Wheeler secured eighty acres of land in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, where he is now successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits.

Wilson Wheeler was married to Addie Giffith, and to this marriage was born one child, Mary B., who is deceased. Later, on May 21, 1900, Wilson Wheeler was married to Emma Drier; to this marriage no children have been born.

In fraternal life Wilson Wheeler is prominently connected, being a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Even Lodge No. 87, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In politics, Mr. Wheeler is a Republican.

D. DARWIN DILLEY.

D. Darwin Dilley, successful farmer, prominent business man and leading citizen of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Fairplain township on December 15, 1874, the son of Hebron H. and Jennie (Fran) Dilley, natives of Stark county, Ohio, and Scotland, respectively. Jennie (Fran) Dilley came to America with her parents when she was seven years of age, and settled in Stark county, where she later was married to Hebron H. Dilley, who after working as a farm helper in Montcalm county, Michigan, for some time, purchased a farm to which he took his wife and where he lived as general farmer until a short time before his death, in 1902. Jennie, the wife of Hebron Dilley, preceded her husband in death by about one year. Hebron Dilley was a leader in political circles of his community, having served his township as treasurer and as supervisor. In politics, Mr. Dilley was an ardent Republican. Hebron and Jennie Dilley were the parents of two children, Margaret, who is the wife of LeRoy Fowler, a farmer of Fairplain township, and D. Darwin, the subject of this sketch.

D. Darwin Dilley received his early education in the common schools of Fairplain township, after which he was a student at the Greenville high school for three years and later was a student at the Ferris Institute of Big Rapids, Michigan, for some time. After the completion of his education, Mr. Dilley became a farmer, a line of work in which he has since been engaged with notable success, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, located about six miles east of Greenville. In addition to his agricultural activity, Mr. Dilley has been active in business circles of his community,

now being the owner of considerable stock in the Greenville Independent Company.

In 1897 D. Darwin Dilley was married to Carrie Bowers, and sixteen months later Mr. Dilley suffered the loss of his wife by death. On April 15, 1903, he was married to Florence Smith, who is the daughter of William A. and Harriet Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Dilley are the parents of one son, Harold, who was born on December 12, 1904, and who now is a student in the public schools of Fairplain township. Mrs. Dawson is an active member and worker in the Methodist church at Greenville.

Mr. Dilley has taken a leading part in the political affairs of his community, he having served Fairplain township as supervisor for two terms, as well as having been an influence and a worker in the ranks of the Republican party in Montcalm county. Mr. Dilley is a well-known member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, and in social and public matters is conceded to be one of the men of value to the community.

GEORGE J. PIERSON.

George J. Pierson is the son of George J. Pierson, who is a native of Ontario county, New York, and who, in turn, is a son of George M. Pierson, also a native of the same county and state. George M. Pierson was the father of eight children, five of whom are now living: T. M.; George J.; T. P.; A. L.; and Mary, wife of Isaiah Blair. In 1852 the parents of these children removed to Montcalm county, Michigan, George J. being seven years of age at the time. T. M. was also born in the state of New York, but the other children were born after the family's removal to Michigan.

George J. Pierson, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the district schools and reared on the home place until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he learned the trade of carpenter and continued in this for some years. To the local political life of Pierson township he has been an active contributor, serving as township clerk and treasurer. He also was appointed postmaster for two succeeding terms, both being under Grover Cleveland's administration. In his agricultural interests he is the owner of one hundred acres of land, all well improved and cultivated, which is now under other management since his retirement to the town of Pierson.

In December, 1875, George J. Pierson was united in wedlock to Carrie A. Godfrey, a native of Jonesville, Michigan, where she was educated, and

with this helpmeet has been able to meet the issues of life with fortitude and wisdom. He has been a member of the Masonic order for the past forty years, being a member of Cedar Lake Lodge No. 213. Politically, he is a member of the Democratic party and has always taken great interest in party issues.

GEORGE W. MILLER.

George W. Miller, a farmer of Montcalm county and representative of that county in the 1915 state Legislature, was born in Fairplain township, Montcalm county, February 10, 1852, the son of Lester R. and Louise M. (Kent) Miller. Lester R. Miller was born in Chili, Monroe county, New York, August 27, 1827, and died at Greenville, Michigan, June 10, 1901. He was the son of Isaac Denison and Deborah (Church) Miller, the former of whom was born in Hartford, Connecticut, June 7, 1799, and died in Eureka township, Montcalm county, February 28, 1857; and the latter, the daughter of Uriah J. and Martha (Cowdery) Church, born in Granby, Hartford county, Connecticut, November 5, 1799, and died in Eureka township, May 28, 1868. To Isaac D. and Deborah (Church) Miller were born ten children, Richard C., Jane Angeline, Amelia, Emily, Lester R., Martha Edwina, Mary Adelia, Elijah Talcott, Lucinda Elmira and Adaline Deborah. All of these children are deceased except Adaline Deborah, who resides in Oregon.

Lester R. Miller lived in New York until 1830, when his parents moved with their family to Detroit, where they remained for five years, when they moved to Oakland county. At the age of twenty years, Lester R. Miller started out for himself, working at various places until he was twenty-four years of age, when he came to Montcalm county with a team and but little money. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in this county and, after remaining here a few months, he walked back to Oakland county and was married to Louisa M. Kent, the daughter of John Kent, on December 25, 1850. Her family also moved to Montcalm county shortly after her marriage to Mr. Miller and here they lived until their deaths. To Lester R. and Louisa M. (Kent) Miller were born two children, George W., the subject of this sketch, and Alice Delphine, the widow of Byron Griffith, of Duluth. Mrs. Louisa M. Miller died in October, 1857, and in 1860 Lester R. Miller was married, secondly, to Sarah L. Cole, and to them were born three children, John C., whose history is given elsewhere in this volume;

Agnes S., the wife of Elmer S. Wolverton, and Mabel, who died in infancy. Lester R. Miller was a hard-working farmer, improving his land and cultivating it as highly as possible with the crude methods and implements of his day. He was compelled to work almost entirely with oxen, which, of course, was very slow, and, when his crop was harvested, he had to haul it to Grand Rapids for market, receiving only fifty cents a bushel for wheat. He lived on his old home farm in Montcalm county until six years before his death, when he moved to Greenville.

George F. Miller was educated in the district schools of his home neighborhood and later attended the high school at Greenville for a few years. He lived at home until twenty-four years of age, when he was married and moved on the old homestead farm, which he had previously purchased and where he lived for three years. At that time he bought one hundred and twenty acres near Miller's Station and moved there, the station being named for him. Mr. Miller went to South Dakota in the fall of 1882 and took up a pre-empted claim of one hundred and sixty acres, his family coming to the farm in the spring of 1883. Besides his first claim, Mr. Miller later took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and a tree claim of one hundred and sixty, all three tracts adjoining. This land was twenty miles from a railroad and was joined on the west by the unsurveyed government land. In the summer of 1886 the Great Northern railroad built a line across his farm and located the site of the town of Claremont on a portion of his land which he had sold to the railroad company. Mr. Miller and his family resided on the South Dakota farm until in the fall of 1905, when they returned to Montcalm county and moved to their present farm. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres located in section 21, and besides this farm Mr. Miller owns eighty acres adjoining on the east and still retains seven hundred and ten acres in South Dakota.

George W. Miller was married on December 21, 1875, to Jennie Barnes, the daughter of Charles and Cordelia (Dibbens) Barnes, the latter of whom was a doctor and well known in this part of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born two children: M. Hugh, who resides on the South Dakota farm, married Maud J. Weaver and has five children, and Marie H., who lives at home with her parents.

Fraternally, Mr. Miller is a member of Pearl Lake Lodge No. 324, Free and Accepted Masons, at Sheridan. Politically, he is a Republican and has always taken a very active part in politics, not only in local elections, but has filled several prominent state offices. When Mr. Miller first moved to

South Dakota it was still a territory and he took an active and prominent part in helping to organize it as a state, after which he was senator from Brown county in the first state Senate, serving one term. He also held several county and township offices in Brown county and was president of the Farmers Warehouse Company there. He served as supervisor of Fairplain township for eight years or until his election to the state Legislature, of which he is a member. Mr. Miller is well known and highly respected in this county, as is proved by the important offices which he has filled and his long tenure in these offices.

SILAS KENT.

Silas Kent is one of the representative farmers of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, and is the owner of two hundred acres of well improved land in sections 8 and 40, one hundred and sixty in the former and the balance in the latter. The home place is known as "Maple Lawn Farm." Silas Kent was born on May 22, 1847, in Oakland county, Michigan, and is the son of James and Sally Anna (Teeter) Kent. James Kent was the son of John Kent and his wife, who were of English and Dutch descent, respectively. James Kent and Sally Anna Teeter were born and reared in New York state and came with their parents to Oakland county, Michigan, where their marriage occurred. After their marriage they remained near Pontiac, Michigan, until their third child, Silas Kent, was five years of age, and then removed to Eureka township, Montcalm county, Michigan. James Kent then purchased eighty acres of land near Greenville, on which they remained for many years. His first wife died and he was married again.

Silas Kent left his parent's home at the age of twenty-three years and became an employee of different farms, and worked some in the lumber business as well. He was united in marriage to Ida Baker, daughter of Chester and Mary J. (Carney) Baker, on March 10, 1875, and they are the parents of one child, Lela May. She is a graduate of the Greenville schools and is the wife of Robert A. Scott, who is a farmer and lives on a farm adjoining that of his father-in-law. They have one child, Robert Kent Scott, who is in the fourth grade at school. Lela May (Kent) Scott is very proficient in music.

Silas Kent gained possession of his first place through a trade which was made with a cousin, Henry Kent. He and wife are members of the

Methodist Episcopal church, of Fairplain, Michigan, in which he has served as trustee for many years. Politically, he is a Republican and has acted in the capacity of highway commissioner for two terms.

Chester Baker, father of Ida (Baker) Kent, was born in New York state and moved to Jackson county, Michigan, with his parents. His wife was born in Niagara county, New York, and moved to Jackson county, Michigan, with her brothers and sisters. She was married in Napoleon, Michigan, where they lived for several years, removing to Montcalm county, Michigan, when their daughter, Ida, was a child of seven years.

W. A. TALLMAN.

W. A. Tallman, prosperous farmer, extensive stock raiser and a citizen who has been active in the official life of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Eureka township, Montcalm county, a son of John R. and Elizabeth H. (Slawson) Tallman, natives of New York state.

John R. Tallman, when a young man, came to Michigan from his home in New York state and located in Otisco township, Ionia county, where he lived with his parents until they moved to Eureka township, Montcalm county, where he was married to Elizabeth H. Slawson, who came to Eureka township, Montcalm county, from her home in New York state when a young girl.

W. A. Tallman was educated in the public schools of Eureka township, Montcalm county, and afterward helped cultivate the home farm which was cared for by his mother after the death of the elder Tallman, when W. A. was but nine years of age. Later, W. A. Tallman became the foreman of a farm in Fairplain township, where he was employed for three years, after which he purchased eighty acres of land in Fairplain township, to which Mr. Tallman added forty acres and a farm which he cultivated for about four years. After this time, Mr. Tallman disposed of his land and returned to the farm where he was first employed, and rented land there for three years, after which he purchased a farm in Ionia county, which he never cultivated and which he later sold. At a later time W. A. Tallman purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land and after one year added forty acres, until now he is the cultivator of three hundred and sixty acres of land in sections 18 and 19, of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, near Greenville. W. A. Tallman is one of the most successful farmers of the county, his products

being of the best, while his interest in the raising of Shorthorn cattle, Polled Durham cattle and Poland China hogs has given Mr. Tallman a place of importance in the stock raising circles of the community.

On January 29, 1887, W. A. Tallman was married to Cora D. Russell, a daughter of Andrew J. Russell and wife, of Fairplain township. To the marriage of W. A. and Cora D. Tallman have been born two children, Russell, who died when one year of age, and Gertrude, who now lives at home.

W. A. Tallman has taken a prominent place in the official life of Fairplain township, having served as road supervisor, and for nine years has been an active and influential member of the school board for district No. 7, of Fairplain township. In politics, Mr. Tallman is an ardent Republican.

LUTHER R. STONE.

Luther R. Stone, a prominent farmer of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, was born in this township, January 16, 1866, the son of Alfred and Abigail E. (Howe) Stone. Alfred Stone was born in New York state and moved to Allegan county, Michigan, with his parents, where both died when he was still a small child and he afterward made his home with his brother. Abigail E. Howe was also born in New York state and moved with her parents to Allegan county, where she met and married Alfred Stone and where they lived for about three years. In 1854 they came to Fairplain township, this county, being among its earliest settlers, and here purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, which they cleared and improved. Alfred Stone died on this farm in November, 1896, but his widow still survives and resides on the old home place. They were the parents of six children: Albert, who resides in Crystal township; Willis, who died at the age of twenty-nine years; Mary, who is deceased; Luther R., the subject of this sketch; and twins, who died in infancy.

Luther R. Stone was reared on his father's farm in Fairplain township and received his education in the schools of his home neighborhood. Some years ago he moved to Day township, but lived there only one year, when he returned to Fairplain township and has resided here ever since. Mr. Stone owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land at Miller's Station, in section 9, Fairplain township, and also sixty acres in another tract in section 9. Mr. Stone resides on the one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract, which is well

improved and kept in a high state of cultivation. He employs all of the latest methods of farming and his farm is modern and up-to-date in every respect.

On January 15, 1890, Luther R. Stone was united in marriage to Effie Pratt, the daughter of Curtis and Rhodie (Burlingame) Pratt. To this union have been born two children, Glenn, who is at home, and Ada, who is the wife of Glenn McBride, of Rockford, Michigan.

Fraternally, Mr. Stone is a member of the Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons. Politically, Mr. Stone is a Republican and has always taken an active part in all of the political affairs of his township and county. He has served two terms as township clerk, is serving his second term as a member of the board of review and has been school director in district No. 1, which is his home district. Mr. Stone has a large number of friends throughout Montcalm county, by whom he is well liked and highly respected.

CHARLES O. BURGESS.

Charles O. Burgess, owner of the Sidney Elevator Company and the proprietor of a lumber yard at Sidney, Montcalm county, Michigan, was born in Baltimore township, Barry county, Michigan, on December 21, 1873, a son of Jerome and Clarissa (Hammond) Burgess, natives of Horner, New York, the former of English descent, the latter of English and German descent.

Jerome Burgess was a farmer of New York state, cultivating his farm there until 1877, when he moved with his family to Stanton, Montcalm county, where he has since made his home. Jerome and Clarissa Burgess are the parents of two children: Carrie L., who, after some years as a school teacher in the schools of Montcalm county, died on February 10, 1899, and Charles O., the subject of this sketch.

Charles O. Burgess was educated in the public schools of Stanton, Montcalm county, after which he was employed in the flour-mills of Stanton for two years and then he went to Big Rapids, Michigan, where he continued his education, securing a life certificate in the common courses in one year. On account of failing health, he discontinued his studies and after three years devoted to the regaining of his health, he lived on a farm near Crystal, Michigan, for some time, and then came to the town of McBride,

Montcalm county, and afterwards returned to Stanton. After four years at Stanton, Mr. Burgess again found himself in failing health and in November, 1907, he went to Ft. Collins, Colorado, where he remained for nine months. Having regained his health, Mr. Burgess returned to Stanton, Michigan, a short time afterwards coming to the town of Sidney, Montcalm county, where he operated an old feed-mill, in partnership with another miller of Sidney. In October, 1912, Mr. Burgess purchased the entire interests in the feed-mill, and operates this mill now as a part of the Sidney Elevator Company, of which he is the proprietor. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Burgess is the owner of a lumber yard at Sidney.

On June 17, 1895, Charles O. Burgess was married to Cora M. Kichland, a daughter of Martin Kichland and wife, farmers living near Crystal, Michigan. To the marriage of Charles O. and Cora Burgess have been born three children, Harold Udell, Helen Lucille and Harland Wendell.

Charles O. Burgess is connected with the Northwestern Life Insurance Company and is a man who is active in the promotion of the business life and projects of Sidney and of Montcalm county. In politics, Mr. Burgess is a Republican.

JOHN C. MILLER.

John C. Miller, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, was born in this township, January 21, 1862, the son of Lester R. and Sarah L. (Cole) Miller. Lester R. Miller was the son of Isaac Denison Miller and was born in New York state, having come from that state to Detroit with his parents when he was about three years of age. Isaac Denison Miller had two brothers who had preceded him to Michigan and taken up land where the city of Detroit now stands. He was anxious to join them and started with his family from New York to Michigan, but, on account of the size of his family, was unable to get passage from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Detroit by schooner. Consequently, the family was compelled to remain in Erie for three months, when passage was secured and they proceeded on their journey. Three years later they purchased a farm near Pontiac, in Oakland county, where Lester R. lived until he had reached his majority. At that time he came to Montcalm county with three horses and a wagon, which he traded for one hundred and twenty acres of land, eighty acres of which John C. Miller now owns. He settled on this land and went to work for J. M. Kidd in the timber, working for twelve

dollars a month, and secured enough lumber to build him a house. In the spring of the following year he walked back to Oakland county, where he married Louisa Kent and then returned to his farm in Montcalm county, her family coming also a short time later. To Lester R. and Louisa (Kent) Miller were born two children, George W., who lives two miles east of the subject in Fairplain township, and Alice Delphine, the widow of Byron Griffith, of Duluth, Minnesota. The mother of these children, Mrs. Louisa Miller, died and Mr. Miller later married Sarah L. Cole, the daughter of James and Sylvia (Frederick) Cole, natives of Auburn, New York. Mrs. Sarah L. Miller was born in Clinton township, Washtenaw county, Michigan, where she was reared and educated. To this second union were born three children, John C., the subject of this sketch; Agnes S., the wife of Elmer S. Wolverton, of Ionia county, and Mable, who died at the age of three months.

John C. Miller lived at home until twenty-one years age, when he went to Dakota, where he took up a tract of pre-empted land and later entered a homestead tract, making a total of three hundred and twenty acres which he owned in this state. He drove through from Dakota back to Michigan, driving seven horses, and was five weeks and four days on the trip. After his return to Michigan, he bought his father's farm of one hundred and thirty-four acres, which he farmed and where he made his home for some time, later selling forty acres of it. In 1891 he engaged in business at Greenville with a Mr. Callaghan, remaining there two and one-half years, and, in 1895, bought another tract of one hundred and forty-five acres from his father, making him a tract of two hundred and thirty-nine acres, situated in section 20, Fairplain township. He also owns a tract of sixty acres one mile north of his present farm, known as the Miller homestead.

On December 13, 1894, John C. Miller was united in marriage to Bessie E. Davidson, the daughter of John L. Davidson. To this union have been born nine children, all of whom are living: J. C., who is a graduate of the high school at Greenville; Agnes M., Eleanora I., Doris C., Sarah C., Gordon D., Lester P., Jennie B. and Herbert. All of these children are still living at home and all except the eldest are attending school.

Fraternally, Mr. Miller is a member of Greenville Lodge No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the Ancient Order of Gleaners. In politics, he is a Republican and has always been active in all political affairs, especially those of his home township. He was supervisor of the township for five years, serving one term of three years and one of two years, has been township treasurer for three terms, and is now serving as moderator of his school district, which office he has filled for a number of years.

CLAIRE C. REYNOLDS.

A native of the state of Michigan and a representative of one of the oldest families within its borders, Claire C. Reynolds has well upheld the prestige of the name he bears, which has long been prominently identified with the industrial interests of the community. As cashier of the Bank of Butternut he has by his ability and personal popularity gained definite recognition and has filled the position for which he was chosen in a manner which has added materially to his professional reputation. Claire C. Reynolds was born on the 24th of July, 1888, in New Haven township, of Gratiot county. He is the son of Ransom P. and Clara Idessa (Wolf) Reynolds, long associated with the social and civic life of the county. The Reynolds family in this section of the state traces its ancestry to Phileman Reynolds, a native of Virginia, who at the age of nine years emigrated to Ohio where he grew to manhood.

Ransom P. Reynolds was the son of Phileman and Mary I. (Gier) Reynolds and was born in Gratiot county, Michigan, on November 17, 1860, on the old Reynolds farm, one-half mile south of Middleton. At that time the farm and community were unsettled and uncleared, and during the boyhood days of Ransom P. Reynolds he worked in cutting staves and clearing. At the age of seventeen he went to work in the pine woods south of Vestaburg for a man named Pratt; the next winter he was chopper for Snow & Sabins near Stanton. He later married Clara Idessa Wolf, the mother of the subject, and they now live on their farm near Middleton.

Phileman Reynolds, the grandfather of the subject, was born on September 26, 1830, it is thought in Vermont, and moved to Ohio when a small boy. He was married to Mary Jane Gier on December 1, 1849.

Phileman Reynolds moved to Gratiot county, Michigan, during the pioneer days in this section of the country, and it is believed that he and his brother, Lewis Reynolds, obtained a grant of land from the government, for it is known that they owned an entire section of land in this county. It may be noted that they established a home here when the future thriving county of the state was represented by a mere scattering of houses studding the borders of large tracts of forest land. Indians were common visitors near the farm house and wild animals were often found in rough weather seeking shelter for the night on the front porch of the farm dwelling. Despite the rough encounters of a life in the wilderness, Phileman Reynolds lived to an advanced age, passing away in 1894. His wife died when Ransom, the father

of the subject of this sketch, was a child and after her death Phileman Reynolds was married for the second time.

The education received by Ransom Reynolds was as complete as the customs of that period and locality afforded. He attended one of the few log school houses of this section of the state, the one just mentioned being located near Middleton. The whole educational period of his life covered little more than four winters spent in school. At an early age he was trained to a life on the farm, and with the exception of a few months spent in the employment of the Grand Trunk Railroad, when that company was putting its line through the county, he has followed the occupation of a farmer. He resides at the present time on a farm scarcely a mile from Middleton, where he has one hundred acres of land under cultivation. His wife, Clara Idessa (Wolf) Reynolds is the daughter of Joseph A. and Martha (Huffman) Wolf and was born in Huron county, Ohio, on February 9, 1863. She spent her early days in Ohio, moving to Gratiot county, Michigan, with her parents in September, 1880. She began teaching school at the age of fifteen years, teaching three terms in Ohio and one in Michigan. Ransom P. Reynolds and Clara Idessa Wolf were united in marriage on June 3, 1883.

Joseph A. Wolf was born on February 13, 1837, and died on October 21, 1906. His boyhood days were spent in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and when twelve years of age he came with his parents to Richland county, Ohio. They lived in different parts of the state of Ohio. He was married, on July 5, 1857, to Martha Huffman, and they, with their family, moved to Michigan in September, 1880. Mr. Wolf was a soldier of the Civil War, enlisting in Company B, Sixtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864 and serving to July, 1865. The regiment was in seventeen battles, but he escaped without a wound. He was a loyal member of the Julius T. Barrett Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Carson City, Michigan. Martha (Huffman) Wolf was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, July 4, 1839, and died at her home in Carson City, June 22, 1910, being seventy-one years old. Ransom and Clara Reynolds have become the parents of the following children: Floyd, thirty years old, who is assistant cashier of the bank at Middleton; Claire C., the subject of this sketch, and Eloise Ruby, now ten years old. Mrs. Reynolds has also reared an adopted daughter, Hazel, who is thirteen years old.

The boyhood of the subject of this sketch was spent on the farm near Middleton. He attended the common schools and was a graduate in the class of 1906 of the Middleton high school. Upon finishing his educational

course he taught school in Gratiot county for two years. In the spring of 1909, Claire C. Reynolds gained his first experience in the financial world as an employee in the Bank of Perrinton where he remained for five months. At the end of that time he accepted the position as cashier of the Bank of Butternut, an office he has filled ever since with marked efficiency. It might be noted in this connection that the bank just mentioned was organized in 1906 by J. J. Phelps, as a private bank. Three years later it was sold to the present owners, Grant Slocum, of Detroit, John Ealy, of Caro, and John R. Hudson, of Middleton. The bank was capitalized at ten thousand dollars and has a responsibility of one hundred thousand. It is rated by the Dun Company as having seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars responsibility, and the shareholders have a reserve sufficient to meet all probable requirements of customers. Mr. Ealy is prominently known throughout the "Thurvel" district where he is interested in several other banks. Mr. Slocum of Detroit, has business interests there, being the founder of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, and Mr. Herdson of Middleton, is cashier of the Peoples State Bank of that place.

The marriage of Claire C. Reynolds and Iva B. Knapp was solemnized on the 31st of March, 1911. Mrs. Reynolds, who is the daughter of Almeron and Harriet (Mosier) Knapp, was born two and one-half miles southwest of Butternut, in Montcalm county. Until her marriage Mrs. Reynolds resided on the original Knapp home which was one of the first established in the county. An account of the life of Almeron Knapp is presented on another page of this volume.

Mr. Reynolds has not permitted his business interests to narrow his views and finds opportunity to enter heartily in the social and industrial affairs of the community. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic lodge at Middleton, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Crystal.

FRED A. PAKES.

Fred A. Pakes, well-known cattleman of Stanton, this county, who is said to have bought more live stock than any man of his age in the state of Michigan, is a native son of Montcalm county, having been born in the city where he still makes his home on July 17, 1876, son of Robert and Mary (O'Shea) Pakes, the former a native of England and the latter of Ireland, long well-known and prominent residents of Stanton.

Robert Pakes, who was born in 1849, left England when he was about twenty years of age and came to America, proceeding shortly thereafter to Michigan, where he settled at Ionia, where he was joined in 1870 by his sweetheart, Mary O'Shea, an Irish lass who had grown up in England, and who came alone to America to marry her lover in Michigan. In 1872 Robert Pakes and his wife left Ionia and settled in Stanton, where Mr. Pakes started a meat market and where he resided the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 1, 1903. Robert Pakes and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this biographical sketch having a brother, Robert L., born in 1879, who now is located in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a sister, Nellie, born in 1874, a former teacher in the Stanton public schools, who married and is now living in Spokane, Washington.

Fred A. Pakes grew up in Stanton and began his highly successful career as a stock buyer when thirteen years old, at which early period of his life he bought a cow from Lafe Barber. That was in 1889 and in the same year he bought a couple of sheep from Anthony Courter. The profit from these two youthful ventures decided Fred A. Pakes' course in life and he speedily began to enlarge his operations, presently taking his place alongside old and experienced stock buyers in the markets of this section of the state. He always rode a yellow pony on his stock-buying rounds and the enthusiastic lad and his pony soon became the most familiar figures on the highways of Montcalm county, the boy buying stock generally within easy access to the Stanton market, though often he found it difficult to make a deal with some of the farmers, the latter apparently being dubious about dealing with so youthful an agent. It was not long before the youthful stock buyer began to extend his operations to neighboring counties and as his affairs prospered gradually extended farther and farther, until he finally found himself an active stock buyer in all the markets of Michigan, his operations covering the entire state, always making his headquarters, however, at Stanton. Mr. Pakes now ships as much as four hundred cars of live stock annually, maintaining shipping points at Stanton, Vestaburg, Lakeview and Fenwick, in this county, and at numerous other points throughout the state, enjoying the reputation of having bought more live stock than any man of his age in Michigan. From the very start of his career, even as a lad of thirteen, Mr. Pakes established a reputation for "fair and square" dealing, which soon inspired the confidence of stock raisers throughout the section covered by his operations and that early-acquired reputation has been maintained with scrupulous care ever since, no stockman in the state being held in higher regard among cattlemen generally than he.

On October 25, 1899, Fred A. Pakes was united in marriage to Nettie Green, who was born at Kalamazoo, this state, April 17, 1882, youngest daughter of Addison and Mary (Bowen) Green, natives of Vermont and early settlers in this state. Addison Green and his wife were the parents of six children, Mrs. Pakes having three sisters and two brothers, Ruth, George, Genevieve, Harry A., and Gladys. The mother of these children died on November 21, 1894. To Fred A. and Nettie (Green) Pakes five children have been born, as follow: Frederick, born on March 26, 1901; Kenneth, November 16, 1902; Mary Arela, August 24, 1904; Robert, October 21, 1906, and Rolland, August 16, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Pakes take their part in the general social activities of Stanton, being much interested in movements designed to advance the common interest hereabout, and are held in high regard by their many friends.

MORTIMER E. DANFORTH, M. D.

Mortimer E. Danforth was born at Cascade, Kent county, Michigan, August 5, 1879, son of Dr. Mortimer W. and Francis E. (Campau) Danforth. His father was a native of Ohio, and his mother of Michigan, and they had four children, namely: Mortimer E., the subject of this sketch; Beatrice, wife of W. W. Kinginger, of Canton, Ohio; Ethel, who died at the age of eighteen years, and Sadie, who died two years later at the same age. The senior Doctor Danforth grew to manhood in Hudson, Ohio, served during the Civil War from its beginning to the end and was a prisoner in Andersonville for several months. After the war he studied medicine with his father and later graduated from the Philadelphia Medical College, following which he began the practice of his profession at Cascade, Michigan, in 1870, and practiced there until his death, in 1895, aged fifty-three years. His widow survives him. Both were members of the Christian (Disciples) church. Dr. M. W. Danforth was born at Hudson, Ohio, August 28, 1843. His father, Horace Danforth, was a physician for many years at Hudson, Ohio. He was born at St. Albans, Vermont, in 1811, and moved to Ohio in 1820, where he began the practice of medicine, and he died there at nearly ninety years of age; his wife also lived to be very old. They were the parents of the following children: Frank, Mortimer W., Edwin, Clarence and Lavina.

The maternal grandfather of Mortimer E. Danforth was Toussaint Campau and his wife was Emily DeMarsac. Both were natives of Michigan and of French descent. He made the first plat of the city of Grand Rapids, and he and his brother, Louis, owned the present site of that city and gave Campau park to the city, and Campau square at the other end of the street was named to honor Louis Campau. Toussaint Campau and his wife lived to old age. Their children were Victoria, Frances, Adolph, Louis and Henry.

Mortimer E. Danforth was reared in Cascade and attended the public school there, then went to Grand Rapids high school, and then to Olivet College a year, and three years in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, after which he graduated from the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine, in 1902. He spent six months as interne at St. Mary's hospital, Grand Rapids; then to Greenville, Maine, where he had charge of a lumber hospital for two years. He then went to Boston, and was assistant to the professor of surgery in the Physicians and Surgeons College for two years, following which he located in Entrican, Michigan, for three years. In 1910 he came to Stanton, where he has since practiced.

On June 29, 1908, Mortimer E. Danforth married Daisy E. Robbins, daughter of Willard and Elizabeth (Carney) Robbins. They have an adopted son, Robert M. The Doctor and his wife are members of the Congregational church. He is a member of Stanton Star Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons and of Pine Grove Lodge No. 202, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is also enrolled as a member of the county and state medical societies and the American Medical Association; is vice-president of the county society, and fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Mortimer E. Danforth is a Republican.

Mrs. Daisy (Robbins) Danforth was born in Ferris township, Montcalm county, Michigan. Her father was a native of Oswego, New York, and her mother of Smyrna, Delaware, and both her parents are living in Ferris township, twelve miles east of Stanton, and are farmers. Their two children were Daisy E. and Charles L. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Danforth was John A. Robbins, a soldier who was killed in the Civil War. He was a native of New York state. His wife was Maria Owens and their two children were Willard E. and Nora J., now the wife of William Cooper. Mrs. Danforth's maternal grandfather was L. E. Carney and his wife was Sarah Carney, both natives of New Jersey. He was a carpenter. Their children were Emma, Anna, Rosalie, Charles, Elizabeth and two others.

FRED A. JOHNSON, M. D.

Among the leaders in citizenship and in the professional circles of Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan, is Dr. Fred A. Johnson, successful physician and surgeon, who was born in Dexter township, Washtenaw county, Michigan, on February 15, 1876, a son of Eugene and Cynthia W. (Ferguson) Johnson, natives of New York state and of Ann Arbor, Michigan, respectively.

Eugene Johnson came with his parents to Michigan at an early age and after receiving his education in the public schools of this state became a farmer, prospering in this vocation until, at the time of his death, he was the owner of two hundred and seventy acres of good land. Mr. Johnson was an active member of the Methodist church, he and his wife both being active workers in this church, the elder Johnson giving liberally of his means for the support of the efforts of this denomination. Later in life, Mr. Johnson was affiliated with the Congregational church. The elder Johnson died in February, 1901. Eugene and Cynthia Johnson were the parents of eight children, of whom four are now living, namely: Charles D., a farmer living in Dexter township, Washtenaw county, Michigan; A. E., a painter of Chelsea, Michigan; Ella W., the wife of Herschel V. Walters, and Fred A.

Fred A. Johnson received his early education in the district schools of Washtenaw county and was graduated from the Chelsea high school in 1900. He then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan and after the completion of a full four-years course he was graduated in 1904, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After the completion of his professional education Doctor Johnson came to Greenville, Montcalm county, and opened an office, where he is now engaged in the practice of his profession, his success in his chosen work being a matter of note in this community.

Not only has Dr. Fred A. Johnson been successful as a general practitioner, but he has found time from his busy life to devote to special medical work and he now is state medical examiner for tuberculosis in the district comprising the counties of Montcalm and Gratiot, being affiliated with the Michigan state hospital for tuberculosis at Howell. Doctor Johnson also takes a prominent place in the medical councils of the community, he now occupying the office of vice-president of the Montcalm County Medical Society.

On December 23, 1903, Fred A. Johnson was married to Jennie V.

Kelsey, who was born in Montcalm county, near Lake View, a daughter of Martin W. Kelsey and wife, prominent people of their locality, they being well-known workers of the Congregational church, Mr. Kelsey having been a deacon in this church. Mrs. Johnson, prior to her marriage, was a successful school teacher in Montcalm county, she having prepared especially for her work at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Fred A. Johnson is prominently connected in the fraternal circles of the community, being a member of Greenville Lodge No. 329, Free and Accepted Masons, and together with his wife is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Doctor Johnson is a member of LeRoy Lodge No. 9, Knights of Pythias, and is a member of Ionia Lodge No. 548, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Politically, Dr. Fred A. Johnson is a Republican, and while he has taken no especial part in the political or official life of the town or county, he is known as a man and as a citizen who lends of his influence and of his efforts in the support of good measures and in the promotion of the candidacy and election of good officials. Doctor Johnson and his wife are among the most highly respected people of Greenville and of Montcalm county, their pleasing ways having won for them a host of friends.

O. A. BRIGGS.

Among the well-known farmers and stock raisers of Fairplain township, Montcalm county, Michigan, is O. A. Briggs, who was born in Erie county, New York, August 11, 1855, a son of Oliver and Kesiah (Berry) Briggs, natives of New York state, the former a son of Charles Briggs, who came from Maine, the latter a daughter of Alvin Berry, who came from Vermont.

O. A. Briggs was educated in the public schools of New York state, after which he worked on the farms of his community until he was twenty-two years of age and then came to the state of Michigan, settling in Fairplain township, where he worked as a farm helper for three years. Mr. Briggs then bought forty acres of land on the town line of Sidney and Fairplain, a place which he improved and cultivated until 1892, when he purchased eighty acres of farm land in section 6, Fairplain township, to which he has added land until now he owns one hundred and twenty acres, all of which he cultivates as a general farmer and on which he engages in the

raising of considerable quantities of good grade live stock. The farm of O. A. Briggs is known as "Maple Grove Farm."

During the year 1883 O. A. Briggs was married to Euphrenia Fleck, a daughter of George and Lepha Fleck, natives of Ohio and New York state, respectively. To the marriage of O. A. and Euphrenia Briggs have been born six children: Ray, Albert, DeEtta, Bessie and Hazel, who live at home, and Alberta, who is the wife of Milo Johnson, of McBride, Montcalm county.

For more than eighteen years O. A. Briggs has been a member of the township school board, during this time having rendered efficient and unselfish service in the interests of the public schools of Fairplain township and the vicinity.

O. A. Briggs is a prominent member of the Ancient Order of Gleaners, of Fairplain, and for a number of years Mr. Briggs held the office of chief gleaner. O. A. Briggs is one of the respected and esteemed citizens of Fairplain township and of Montcalm county. Mr. Briggs is a Republican.

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